

# THE INDEPENDENT

## ON SATURDAY

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### TODAY'S NEWS

#### EXCLUSIVE

#### BAe pays to save nurse's life - and trade

British Aerospace, the company with the most to lose from any damage to Britain's trading relations with Saudi Arabia, has paid the largest chunk of the "blood money" set aside to prevent the execution of Deborah Parry, one of two nurses found guilty of murder. The Independent has seen a copy of the settlement, which shows that the victims' nearest relative, Frank Gifford, would receive the £730,000 set aside even if the court does not eventually find Ms Parry guilty of 'intentional murder' - the charge which would carry the possibility of a death sentence. See below

#### EXCLUSIVE

#### Boom in football fans

Stands at football grounds around the country are filling up again - and it's not the Premiership clubs that are driving the increase in spectator numbers, it's the clubs of the Nationwide League. More and more fans are returning to support their local team, according to our own survey of attendances so far this season. It suggests that the professional game in England and Wales is poised to enjoy its largest percentage increase in league gates for 40 years, taking attendances to their highest level for 18 years. Part of the reason is that fans cannot get tickets for Premiership games; 10 out of the 20 top clubs are always full. Time Out, Page 32

#### From Labour's rousing finale to a Tory wake

John Prescott, Labour's deputy leader, sent the Labour faithful home from Brighton yesterday with a rousing speech largely devoted to mocking William 'Just William' Hague, the Tory leader.

As we report, however, no one will be laughing in Blackpool next week when the Conservatives gather to contemplate their future: a surprising number of the Tory great and good have decided to stay away, sending a less than supportive message to the party they helped sustain in power over the past two decades. Page 3

#### Diana transcripts sold

Andrew Morton, the author of the revelatory biography of Diana, Princess of Wales, is once more facing ferocious criticism for his decision to publish the transcripts of tapes which she recorded and had passed to him as material for his book.

Mr Morton was paid more than £100,000 by the American magazine, People, and was yesterday unrepentant for disclosing what he called "the scoop of the century". Report page 9, leading article page 20

#### Let's go to Legoland

Legoland is Britain's most popular new attraction: more than three times as many people visited the Windsor theme park as visited Buckingham Palace last year. Page 15

#### Gene breakthrough

A medical conference in Paris next week will hear that scientists may have found a way of injecting genes that will fight secondary cancers by taking over cells and replacing genes. The technique, however, needs further tests. Page 3

#### SEEN & HEARD

Rolf Harris yesterday stunned his fans by admitting 'he did not play the didgeridoo on his most famous hit record. And now, it seems, did anyone else. The Australian entertainer, who now presents *Animal Hospital*, said yesterday that the characteristic deep drone of the Aboriginal instrument on Sun Arise - the record which he took to number 3 in the charts in 1962 - was "mocked up" in the studio by Johnny Spence and George Martin, the Beatles producer, using eight bass fiddles.

WEATHER Time Off, page 2  
TELEVISION The Eye  
CROSSWORDS Page 26; Time  
Off, page 12; and ISM, page 60.

Web address: <http://www.independent.co.uk>

### Cinderella braves the Blitz



The young Royal Ballet star Sarah Wildor dancing the lead in a new 'Cinderella'. This version of Prokofiev's ballet is set during the Blitz, and opens on Tuesday at London's Piccadilly Theatre. Photograph: Laurie Lewis

## Blood money, arms and politics: the Saudi deal

The British company with the most to lose from the execution of two nurses charged with murder in Saudi Arabia has made the biggest "blood money" donation to save their lives. Steve Boggan reveals how the women were spared public beheadings and how British businesses queued up to protect their own interests.

British Aerospace, Britain's largest defence contractor, was the biggest contributor to the "blood money" fund which guaranteed the lives of two nurses accused of murder in Saudi Arabia.

Sources close to the deal confirmed yesterday that the company - which takes a huge slice of Britain's £2.5bn-a-year trade with Saudi Arabia - was at the head of a list that included other defence contractors as well as private donors.

The money, \$1.2m (£730,000), was paid into an account in Australia on Wednesday and will be released when Frank Gifford, brother of the murdered nurse Yvonne Gifford, fulfils two conditions of the blood-money settlement, seen yesterday by *The Independent*.

First, he must plead in writing for clemency for Deborah Parry, 38, one of the British nurses accused of the murder. She

awaits a Saudi court's verdict on a charge of "intentional murder". Her co-accused, Lucille McLanchlan, has already been found guilty of a lesser charge and sentenced to eight years in prison and 500 lashes.

Second, Mr Gifford must make a statement to the court repeating assertions that his sister was not a lesbian. Confessions which the nurses say were forced out of them centre on a row which was supposed to have erupted because Ms Gifford ended a lesbian relationship with Ms Parry. The accused say no such relationship existed.

British Aerospace refused to confirm or deny its involvement yesterday. It is currently delivering 48 Tornado strike aircraft and a number of Hawk and Pilatus training jets to the Saudis.

The defence industry was anxious that the crisis over the nurses' possible executions should not affect relations between the two countries. It is understood that the Foreign Office played a major role in raising the blood money. Officials even provided names and telephone numbers of senior figures in the defence industry and suggested that Jonathan Ashbee, Ms Parry's brother-in-law, ask them for money. "They were incredibly helpful," Mr Ashbee said yesterday.

Among those thought to have made a donation is Vickers, which has been competing for a contract to supply tanks to the Saudis. Andrew Green, Britain's ambassador in Saudi Arabia, is a former non-executive director of Vickers. The company

yesterday refused to confirm or deny that it had made a donation.

Salah Hejailan, the nurses' lawyer in Saudi Arabia, confirmed that the money was transferred on Wednesday to a client account at a firm of solicitors in Adelaide. It can be released to Mr Gifford only with the mutual agreement of both sides: that agreement will come when he fulfils his promises next week. A verdict in Ms Parry's case is expected soon afterwards.

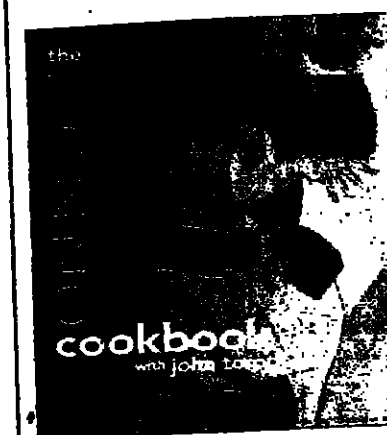
Remarkably, according to the settlement seen by *The Independent*, Mr Gifford will still receive the money even if the court finds Ms Parry guilty of a lesser degree of murder than "intentional". In that event, there would be no possibility of either nurse being executed.

"In an early version of the settlement, there was a provision that the money should be returned if there was no death penalty, but he insisted on keeping it later on," said Mr Hejailan. "Mr Gifford has made an abuse of the system... He has treated it as an opportunity to make money and not simply to save the lives of two innocent women."

Mr Gifford will keep \$500,000 of the fund, with the remaining \$700,000 being donated to a children's hospital in Adelaide.

Yesterday, details emerged of another murder at the King Fahd Military Medical Centre, where Ms Gifford was killed. The victim, Liberty de Guzman, was murdered in 1994. Both women were stabbed and beaten. In each case, a security guard vanished shortly afterwards.

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Britain's only school dedicated to helping children with severe asthma and eczema is to close after 42 years.

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The issue of whether wives can accompany Second World War veterans to a reunion lunch has led to a peculiarly English battle.

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Andrew Morton has come under attack for publishing transcripts of tapes made by Diana, Princess of Wales, but the author is unrepentant, insisting he has behaved honourably and accusing his critics of hypocrisy.

### 10/LABOUR CONFERENCE

### 13/ISRAEL'S DEBACLES

Israel released Sheikh Yassin, the leader of Hamas, just as it was demanding that Yasser Arafat, the Palestinian leader, put Hamas leaders in jail. Patrick Cockburn in Jerusalem looks at the disastrous consequences of the capture of Israeli agents in Jordan after a failed assassination bid.

### 14,15/LEISURE

The plastic world of Legoland is a more popular choice for an afternoon out than the Buckingham Palace, according to a survey.

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A year after pictures of Muslim vigilantes publicly executing a gang leader were transmitted around the globe, open warfare has broken on the Cape Flats. As the innocents die, Mary Braid discovers the South African police are impotent in the face of crisis.

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A haunting experience: Deborah Warner's new production of *The Turn of the Screw*.

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Is it better for a thirteen-year-old to enter the boxing ring than to be bullied at school?

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David Aaronovitch: Earrings, testicles and adultery.

### 24/BUSINESS

Barclays put its investment banking arm, BZW, up for sale, but has yet to find a buyer.

### TIME OFF & SPORT

The new Saturday second section has travel, outdoor activities and gardening at the front and 15 pages of sport, starting from the back.

### YOUR MONEY

Section three has 12 pages of personal finance, property and motoring.

### WEATHER

The weather is on page 2 of the Time Off section.

### CROSSWORD

This week the cryptic crossword is on page 56 of the Time Off section.

### TELEVISION

Today's television is in your Eye supplement

TOURIST RATES			
Australia (dollars)	2.63	Italy (lira)	2735
Austria (schillings)	19.51	Japan (yen)	194.04
Belgium (francs)	57.35	Malta (lira)	0.60
Canada (\$)	2.15	Netherlands (guilders)	3.12
Cyprus (pounds)	0.81	Norway (kroner)	11.22
Denmark (kroner)	10.63	Portugal (escudos)	284.45
France (francs)	9.33	Spain (pesetas)	234.24
Germany (marks)	2.78	Sweden (kroner)	12.01
Greece (drachmes)	441.84	Switzerland (francs)	2.28
Hong Kong (\$)	12.08	Turkey (lira)	2679.19
Ireland (punts)	1.07	USA (\$)	1.57

Source: Thomas Cook

## PEOPLE



Head-to-head: Chris Evans and Zoe Ball, who will be starting new jobs on the same day

### Chris Evans heads back to Virgin territory

The DJ Chris Evans moved against his old employers Radio One and their new breakfast team by agreeing to front a rival show for Virgin.

The move marks the start of a ratings battle between the two popular stations, with Evans launching his new show on the same day as Zoe Ball and Kevin Greening make their own debut.

He will be joined by members of his old breakfast crew including student Dan, Holly "Hotlips" and John.

News reader Tina Richie will also rejoin the team after resigning from Radio One yesterday.

A spokesman for Evans said: "Radio is really his love. He's been doing it for 16 years, so now he's back where he loves to be. People will paint it as a war between him and Zoe, but it is not a war as far as he's concerned - Zoe is a good friend of his."

Virgin's current breakfast DJs Russel Williams and Jonathan Coleman were unceremoniously axed yesterday morning and told not to come back on Monday. A stand-in will fill their shoes until Evans launches his show on October 13.

The shake-up has sent more shock waves reverberating around the radio world than the news two

weeks ago that Ball and Greening would replace Mancunian presenters Mark Radcliffe and Mark Riley.

The new show will only run from Monday to Thursday, giving Evans time to prepare for his TFI Friday Show on Channel 4.

It was the refusal by his old boss Matthew Bannister to give him this day off that prompted him to leave Radio One.

Evans, 30, who was paid £1 million a year for his old Radio One breakfast show and added more than a million listeners to the station's audience, is expected to receive a similar amount from his new employers.

The move marks a return to Virgin Radio for Evans - he presented the Big Red Mug Show for the station four years ago. He has also worked on Piccadilly and GLR before heading for television success with *The Big Breakfast* and *Don't Forget Your Toothbrush* on Channel Four.

The show's run may be limited, however, because of an expected decision by the Monopolies and Mergers Commission on a planned merger between Virgin and Capital Radio.

### Vexed Londoners wish Oasis would dry up

Oasis yesterday announced dates and venues for the second half of their British tour, prompting glee from devoted fans and doubtful groans from police officers and local residents.

After the first series of concerts, most recently at Earls Court, London, opinions on the Gallagher brothers have polarised. Fans raved and are expected to show massive enthusiasm for the new events.

But those bearing the brunt of the crowds and their behaviour have been less complimentary, particularly after scenes at last weekend's London concert, when mounted police were called in to quell disturbances.

Beer cans were hurled and fans urinated in nearby gardens. A councillor was moved to comment: "The Gallagher brothers are foul-mouthed, vulgar, uncouth yobs and so are many of their fans." Nigel Roberts, who has lived in the area for five years, said: "They (the fans) were jumping over the railings of our communal garden and defecating on the grass."

Organisers said they may reconsider having the band back; in any case, their next London venue is Wembley Arena.

The dates in full are: Glasgow SECC, December 7 and 8; Cardiff Indoor Arena, December 10 and 11; Manchester G-Mex, December 13 and 14; Wembley Arena, December 16, 17, 18.

Michael Streeter

### Sweet taste of success for rocket scientist

The bubbles in an Aero chocolate bar inspired a scientist with a sweet tooth to develop a low-cost rocket of fuel. The idea behind the Space Quest Foundation's discovery came when full-time researcher Derek Willis, 37, bit through his favourite Nestlé "bubble bar" snack.

Today should see the first launch of a rocket powered by the fuel in an experiment being staged at a farm at Skipton, Yorkshire. "Fuels for rockets are particularly expensive, so we needed a cheap fuel based on oxygen and a kind of slurry," Mr Willis said. "I had this idea of forcing oxygen down through the slurry and then setting it hard."

"I was just chewing on this bar of chocolate and the idea hit me. It's very simple in principle." Billions of bubbles are blasted into the oil-based slurry at 3,000lbs per square inch. The hardened formula, which the scientists have patented, can then be put into the rocket's chamber.

Aerated Solid Propellant, or Asprop, costs a tenth of the fuel used to blast the space shuttle into space. It could save United States space agency NASA about up to 60 million dollars - about £37.5 million - per mission. Space Quest's six researchers, five of whom work part time, have a little workshop in Byker, Newcastle, and got together to get youngsters interested in science and technology. The foundation produces videos and booklets to help schoolchildren learn about technology. Youngsters also become involved in making rockets.

## UPDATE

### HEALTH

### 'Danger' fireboard escapes ban

Experts investigating the health risks of medium-density fibreboard said there was no evidence so far to justify banning the product.

Critics have labelled the versatile wood substitute used by millions of DIY fans the "asbestos of the nineties", claiming it causes cancer, sore throats and damage to the lungs and heart. But at the end of the first stage of a major investigation, the Health and Safety Executive said there was no need for urgent action to take the product off the shelves.

MDF is used throughout the furniture-making industry and by DIY enthusiasts to build wardrobes, cupboards and bookcases. It is made of wood dust and scrap, usually bonded in with formaldehyde - which is already recognised as a carcinogen. When it is cut, it releases dust which is much finer than dust from other materials.

The HSE said as long as regulations were followed the product could be used safely. "Based on current available evidence, it is HSE's view that there is no need for a ban on MDF." Although studies had shown that although formaldehyde vapour could irritate the eyes, nose and throat, some of one cutting MDF was not exposed to levels at which it became hazardous. The regulations say exposure to the dust should be limited by the use of especially sensitive dust masks, dust extraction equipment and cutting material in well ventilated areas or outside. Although only workplaces are legally obliged to follow the regulations, the HSE said DIY enthusiasts would also be well advised to take the same precautions.

### PRISONS

### Watchdog praises Group 4 jail

A privately run jail criticised by the Prison Service yesterday received a glowing report from the Chief Inspector of Prisons. Sir David Ramsbotham said the decision to designate Buckley Hall Prison, near Rochdale, Lancashire, which is run by security firm Group 4, as needing special management attention was "undeserved".

But in a report on the jail he again expressed concern that random drug-testing in prisons was driving inmates to use heroin instead of softer drugs such as cannabis. Sir David said he was delivering a "thoroughly good report" on Buckley Hall, which Prison Service chiefs had previously earmarked as a problem jail. "Nothing we saw suggested this was in any way appropriate for Buckley Hall and indeed, not only is the stigma attached to it undeserved, but in view of the large number of prisons which are way below the standard of Buckley Hall but have not been made so subject, it undermines the credibility of the process."

Sir David blamed earlier problems in the prison on a too rapid influx of inmates after it was opened in 1994. He criticised the way those difficulties were seized upon and exploited by groups opposed to private prisons on "ethical and political grounds". But he also expressed concern about the scale of the drugs problem at Buckley Hall which mirrored other jails.

Both staff and inmates had suggested prisoners were switching from cannabis to heroin because it was detectable for a much shorter period, after it was taken. The Prison Service should complete research currently under way into the issue as a "matter of urgency", Sir David said. "If the results suggest the introduction of mandatory drugs-testing has affected for the worse prisoners' drug-taking behaviour, then the policy to review drug abuse may have to be reconsidered."

### LEARNING DISABILITIES

### Mencap battles to combat bias

Five years after changing its name, Mencap, the charity for learning disabilities, says there is "still a long way to go" before the public and media stops discriminating against those they support.

The name was changed from the mentally handicapped because learning disabilities was a less discriminatory and more accurate term. But in a recent Mencap survey almost 50 per cent of the public still described the charity as being for the mentally handicapped and 13 per cent believed Mencap to be a mental-health charity.

This demonstrates a large degree of misunderstanding around learning disability, says the charity. "People with learning disabilities are discriminated against in employment, when on holiday, through leisure and with a variety of services such as housing, the NHS and the criminal justice system. Only with real understanding of the issues can society hope to end discrimination as we near the end of the 20th century," said Fred Heddell, Mencap's chief executive. "We still have a long way to go to change the public's and media's perceptions of what people with learning disabilities can achieve."

Glenda Cooper, Social Affairs Correspondent

### SILICONE DEBATE

### Breast implants declared safe

Silicone breast implants are safe, a leading US gynaecologist claimed. Elizabeth Connell, former chairwoman of the US Food and Drug Administration panel on breast implants, said 20 studies had failed to find evidence that they cause disease. Illnesses suffered by women who have had breast surgery are not related to the implants, she said. Professor Connell, who is in Britain to advise the UK government on its review of breast implants, due for completion by the end of the year, issued a plea for public and professionals to focus on the facts rather than the emotion that is "being whipped up in the pressure-cooker atmosphere of US courtrooms."

Jeremy Laurance, Health Editor

### CRIME PREVENTION

### Probation officer's tag warning

Electronic tagging of offenders could provide a cost-effective and constructive answer to crime prevention and public safety, according to a book by Kent's Chief Probation Officer, Dick Whitfield, based on research in the UK and abroad. But if wrongly used, it could equally be an "electronic trip-wire" because offenders who do not respond are bound, later on, to end up in prison, even though they may have been tagged for offences which did not originally justify custody. Using the tag solely as a method of punishment as, for instance, in proposals to make it available as a penalty for fine default, is a "very simplistic approach and likely to be an expensive one", Mr Whitfield warns. *Tackling the Tag*, is published by Waterside Press.

Patricia Wynn Davies, Legal Affairs Editor

PAPERBACK OUT NOW

## THE NATION'S FAVOURITE LOVE POEMS

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BBC

### Aborigine dying to be punished

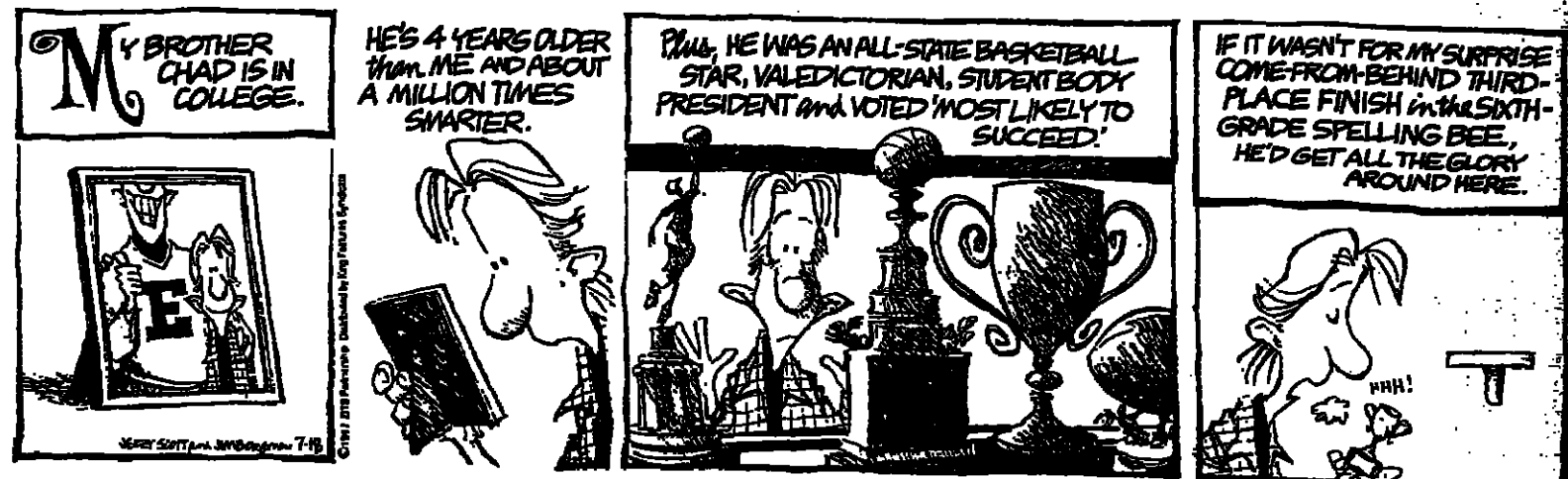
Steven Barnes, a 28-year-old Aborigine, is pleading with a court to be allowed to suffer traditional punishment of being speared in the legs and having a boomerang thrown at him after pleading guilty to killing his nephew in a fight.

But Justice Steven Bailey in the Northern Territory Supreme Court denied bail so that he could receive the punishment. In many areas of outback Australia judges often give suspended

sentences to Aboriginal defendants, knowing their real punishment will come from their own tribe in the form of "payback."

Asked by prosecutor Michael Carey if he still wanted to go through the punishment even though it might kill him, Barnes replied, "Yes" in a barely audible voice. An elder in Barnes' Lajamanu people told the court they had been preparing for the punishment.

### ZITS



by Jerry Scott & Jim Borgman



# Dream of gene therapy comes a step closer

Doctors of the future may use gene therapy routinely to cure cancer. A new trial from Canada may offer some hope. Charles Arthur, Science Editor, unravels the blueprint for a new cure.

The elusive promise of "gene therapy", in which cancers and inherited genetic defects could be treated by injecting replacement functional genes, may have begun to be fulfilled.

A conference in Paris next week will hear that a Canadian company has successfully managed to get new genes to seek out secondary tumours in laboratory animals. There, the replacement genes take over from the faulty genes which are allowing uncontrolled growth.

Although the technique is in its early stages - it has only so far been demonstrated with "marker" genes, rather than anti-cancer genes - and would have to pass a number of clinical hurdles before being used in humans, it suggests that the multi-pronged approach to gene therapy may begin to pay off in a few years.

That in turn would mean relief, and perhaps even a cure, for thousands of people both with cancers and inherited disorders such as cystic fibrosis.

The new system has been developed by a Canadian company, Inex Pharmaceuticals of Vancouver, and uses artificial "packages" to carry the new genes to the disease site. The packages, called transmembrane carrier systems, are made up essentially of fat droplets and are injected into the blood-

stream. They contain a package of genes: in Inex's trials, these were tumour suppressor genes, which carry the code to make proteins which stop cells from reproducing wildly. The trials found that the genes' proteins were being produced in secondary tumours.

If the findings are confirmed, and can be carried over to humans, it will be an important step forward for the technique. So far, human clinical trials of gene therapy have promised much but delivered little. The first ailment to be attacked was cystic fibrosis (CF), in which a faulty gene causes overproduction of mucus in the lungs, with fatal results.

One of the first trials attempting to use gene therapy to replace a faulty CF gene was carried out in Britain. It incorporated the gene into a modified retrovirus - the class of viruses including HIV, which causes Aids - because retroviruses add their genetic material to that of their target cells. The hope was that the working CF gene would be incorporated into the lung's lining, and prevent the overproduction of mucus. However, the results have been disappointing, and success using retroviruses has remained elusive.

But the Inex technique of using fats, which is being followed by a number of other gene therapy companies, may eventually show more promise, even though it relies on an artificial package for the genes. Dr John Warner, head of Inex's gene therapy division, said: "Today, one of the main limitations in gene therapy is the inability to get genes to metastatic or widespread disease. Our technology has the potential to do just this."



A 300lb tigress, from the photographer Belinda Wright's 1984 article for *National Geographic*, which is reproduced in a centenary issue volume published this week; Big picture, page 26

## Burning bright: one girl's hopes for the tiger

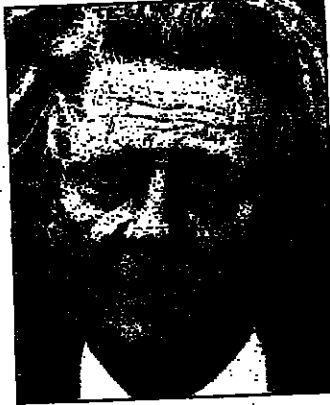
A young British girl met the Prime Minister of India yesterday, and made a personal plea to help save the tiger from extinction.

Jenny Osgood, from Newquay, Cornwall, presented I K Gujral with a petition she had organised, at a meeting in New Delhi. Jenny was in Delhi as part of a trip organised by the British Environmental Investigation Agency animal protection

charity, in co-operation with Indian organisations. The petition, which Jenny, 16, collected in her local area after seeing EIA work on the plight of the Indian tiger, contains 7,000 signatures - one for each tiger left in the wild today. Jenny, who is visiting India with her mother and is taking part in Indian wildlife week during which she will travel to a tiger reserve, said: "I hope very much that

other young people will get involved in the campaign and that my visit will show that young people care about this issue. If enough people care and act on that caring then we can save the tiger."

Almost two-thirds of the world's remaining tiger population - which in 1900 stood at about 80,000 - is in India, where at least one is poached every day. — Jojo Moyes



Some of the prominent Tory figures who won't be there (from left): Lord Archer of Weston-super-Mare, Sir David English, Michael Heseltine, Lord Hanson, Charles Saatchi, and Adair Turner

## Heseltine's not going, Archer's not going... so who is?

The Conservatives are not dead, they are just sleeping, Tony Blair told Labour delegates in Brighton. Kim Sengupta and Anthony Bevins ask whether next week's Tory conference of reawakening will be more like a wake.

It's their party and they will cry if they want to. The Conservative organisers at Blackpool may well be feeling the need for boxes of Kleenex as they contemplate the dwindling guest list at one of the most important party conferences in their 165-year history.

Labour at Brighton was always going to be a hard act to follow. After the election landslide, the party's encore was a triumphant first conference back in power. Now what's left of Smith Square's propaganda machine must try and boost morale in a production where the cast appears to be voting with its feet.

Hotel and boarding house rooms were as hard to find in Brighton as unreconstructed socialists supporting Clause IV. But in Blackpool there have been late cancellations, and those arriving on spec should have no difficulty finding a place to stay.

The people who have already sent their regrets include a sizeable portion of the great and the good who, you would have

thought would never have dreamt of snubbing a Conservative conference in the past.

There has also been a reduction in the corporate hospitality field, and fringe meetings. For the first time in many years, the literature sent out from Central Office does not even have a fringe guide.

Michael Heseltine, the former deputy prime minister, is not going; neither, it appears, is Lord Archer, the ex-deputy chairman of the party, who hosted famous champagne and shepherd's pie parties, where his friends say important matters of state were discussed. Two people closely identified with promoting and projecting the Conservatives also appear to be withdrawing. Lord Hanson will be in America

next week, and Charles Saatchi is "unlikely to attend". His firm, M & C Saatchi, has also decided not to host its conference bash.

Adair Turner, director general of the Confederation of British Industry, will also be missing from Blackpool, although he was available for Labour at Brighton. Like Lord Hanson, he has a pressing engagement in the US. The CBI stressed that this was not a snub, and he would probably attend next year's conference.

But perhaps the most worrying development for Tory spin doctors is the level of indifference from its traditional supporters in the media. Sir David English, chairman of Associated Newspapers, the owner of the *Daily Mail* and *Mail on Sun-*



day, will not be there - the first time he has missed a Tory conference in 20 years. All is not lost, however. Central Office points out that 3,600 representatives have registered to attend, 400 more than last year.

## IN MONDAY'S INDEPENDENT



THE DEBORAH ROSS INTERVIEW  
Tim Waterstone: Britain's favourite bookseller - three wives, eight children, £42m and still out for revenge

STYLE Found! The smartest, sharpest fashion shop



THE EYE Murray Lachlan Young v Keats what is National Poetry Day for?

MEDIA+ Charlie Whelan, the man who outspun Peter Mandelson



SPORT David Ginola: what he wants and why the French ignore him

Blessed are they which do thirst

St Matthew 5:6



for it is written

Luke 4:8

## Race-hate victims win landmark judgment

Mal Hussain and Linda Livingstone are the victims of six years of racial violence and harassment. But now, writes Patricia Wynn Davies, they have been given the go-ahead to sue the local council for failing to protect them.

Despite a well-documented campaign of racial harassment, leading to 46 separate criminal convictions of the perpetrators, no one has been evicted from the Rylands council estate in Lancaster, where Mal Hussain and Linda Livingstone run a mini-market.

But in the first clear High Court ruling of its kind, a judge has decided that their civil action against Lancaster City Council should go ahead. Judge Walton QC overruled a lower-ranking judge on 15 July who supported a move by the council to have the case struck out. Unless the latest ruling, handed down on Thursday, can

be successfully challenged in the Court of Appeal, the case, backed by the National Assembly Against Racism, is set to become a cause célèbre for campaigners against racism.

Nine people were convicted in July of crimes related to the petrol bombing of the shop. They included five juveniles who were sentenced to a total of 24 years and a seven-year sentence against 38-year-old Craig Wareing. A number of the offenders are council tenants.

Mr Hussain, 43, is the only black person on the estate. He and Ms Livingstone, 49, sunk their savings into the store, fulfilling their ambition of owning their own business in a quiet city an easy distance from the Lake District and Lancashire's holiday resorts. But the shop has become a fortress under siege. The couple's persecutors have daubed graffiti, thrown bricks and petrol bombs and issued death threats. Mr Hussain said: "We have had gangs outside chanting 'If you want the Paki dead thump the seat'."

Mr Hussain said yesterday: "Since

moving to Rylands estate in June 1991 we have been subjected to continuous racist attacks, racial violence, racial abuse and racial harassment and intimidation. Nothing has been done to protect us."

Ms Livingstone said: "I set great store on law and order. I thought if we went to the council they would do something about it. If they are saying they have done everything they can, why have they tried to stop the case coming to court?"

Leo Jasper, vice-chairman of the National Assembly Against Racism, said: "If those who have stood by while Mal and Linda suffered are not forced to pay a price, then every local authority and every police force will know that they can turn a blind eye to racial harassment."

Clive Romain, of the couple's solicitors, Bindman & Partners, said: "This is a very welcome and even historic ruling."

"Up to now the law has been unclear. Now the High Court has ruled that local authorities can be liable as landlords for acts of nuisance including racial harassment when they fail to take action against the perpetrators."



## Jail for gems-haul housekeeper who deserted toddler

A heartless housekeeper who stole a fortune in jewellery and then fled, allegedly leaving a helpless autistic toddler alone in the premises, was jailed for nine months yesterday.

Annette Lanigan-Ryan, 30, recruited through *Lady* magazine, had been working for her employer less than 24 hours before she found her safe full of valuable watches and diamond-encrusted jewellery. She pocketed the £10,000 haul, snatched £600 in cash lying near by and headed for the nearest pawnbrokers. When police caught up with her she was making one of her many visits to a casino, Southwark Crown Court was told.

Mr Recorder Alan Hilton QC told the servant her dishonesty amounted to a "serious breach of trust". "It seems to me you lost very little time in deciding to take the jewellery and the money. I accept the sight of the jewellery must have tempted you and that you have never been in trouble before... but this offence is so serious a custodial sentence is inevitable," Lanigan-Ryan admitted one count of theft in July this year, was led from the dock crying.

Her former employer, businessman's wife Mrs Toyn Kamaing, from Kensington, London, dismissed the woman's apparent distress as "nothing but crocodile tears". "I feel very bad about all this. The most important thing was not the jewellery that was stolen but that my two-and-a-half-year old daughter Zara, who is a specialist-needs child, who was left in the house all by herself with the front door open. She is autistic with no concept of danger... she could have had a terrible accident."

Earlier, Peter Lynch, prosecuting, told the court Lanigan-Ryan began her new duties by cleaning her boss's bedroom where the household safe was located. The barrister said Mrs Kamaing later left the house leaving her live-in help to carry on with her work. When she returned an hour later Lanigan-Ryan had disappeared, along with the jewellery and money.

Mr Lynch said officers tracked the deceitful servant to a central London casino. Later, they found she had visited it no less than 21 times that month. Her home in Rowley Way, St Johns Wood, north-west London, was searched and a number of pawn tickets found.

## Ford workers stage lightning strike over pay dispute

Production of Fiesta cars at Ford's biggest UK plant was halted yesterday because of a lightning strike by workers over pay.

Around 60 workers at the Dagenham assembly plant in Essex staged the unofficial walkout yesterday afternoon and they were later joined by other employees.

The company said production of Fiesta cars and vans was halted because of the strike.

The sudden walkout was believed to be a reaction to a pay offer made yesterday by the company to union leaders representing all of Ford's 20,000 production workers.

The offer of a 2.75 per cent rise this year followed by another rise of 2.75 per cent next year was rejected by union negotiators who described it as an "insult".

Tony Woodley, chief negotiator for the Transport and General Workers Union, said the company had failed to answer concerns about job security.

He hoped for an improvement when the two sides meet again for further talks next month.



## Personnel shortages mean warships miss training

Royal Navy warships are unable to take part in vital training exercises because of shortages of key personnel, it was disclosed yesterday. The Navy's Warfare Branch is about 400 personnel short and an urgent effort is being made to recruit the necessary manpower.

Personnel are being taken from other vessels to ensure that ships on military operations and patrols are not affected. But there is deep concern at the need to withdraw vessels from training because of impact on skills.

The shortages are being blamed on the ban on recruitment during manpower reductions in the Options for Change cutbacks in the early 1990s.

The Navy said the Warfare Branch problems were expected to level off shortly.

## M&S recalls heating pillows

Marks & Spencer is recalling a range of back and neck heating pillows after two customers complained they had caused burns.

The two customers said they received minor injuries after pads used to heat the neck pillows overheated.

A further three customers have complained that the pads began smoking when they used them. M&S said it was urging customers to return all the items to their nearest store for a full refund.

Although no complaints have been received about the back pillow, which went on sale in August, they are also being recalled as a precautionary measure.

Some 4,200 neck pillows have been sold since they went on sale in M&S stores a year ago.

## Schoolboy, 10, dies after drinks session

A schoolboy died following an after-school drinking binge, it was revealed yesterday.

Stephen Galloway-McGee, 10, of Paisley, died at Southern General Hospital, Glasgow on Thursday, two days after he and his friends drank from bottles they found in a carrier bag near the former Chrysler car factory underpass in Linwood.

His mother, Margaret, made the decision to turn off his life-support machine. Stephen, who had been declared brain dead earlier in the day, was kept alive on the machine until doctors had carried out tests to discover what had happened to him.

Doctors do not know exactly what Stephen drank, although traces of vodka were found in his body. Police recovered two of the bottles of alcohol which were in the bag and have sent them for analysis.

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## Closure threat for school that provides breath of fresh air for asthmatic pupils



Save Our School: Pilgrims pupil Nicholas Flint at the demonstration outside I CAN's offices in London yesterday

Photograph: Kalpesh Lathigra

Britain's only school dedicated to helping children with severe asthma and eczema is to close after 42 years. Parents told Lucy Ward, education correspondent, of the miracles Pilgrims School has worked.

Two years ago, Katie Faulkner's asthma was so bad that she gasped for breath after a few steps uphill. When her family went on holiday, they had to take an extra suitcase just to transport the drugs and nebuliser she needed to keep her condition under control.

Today, 15-year old Katie, from Colchester, Essex, is able to run, swim and canoe and has just gained a bronze award for trampolining. Instead of pulling a nebuliser mask over her face every two or three hours, she uses small hand-held inhalers whenever she feels breathless.

The improvement, she and her family say, is down to her move to Pilgrims School in Seaford, East Sussex. Housed in a former school for children with tuberculosis who benefited from the sea air, the boarding school has, since 1955, been working educational and medical wonders for young asthma and eczema sufferers unable to attend mainstream establishments.

At the start of this term, however, parents and children were devastated to hear that the school is to close in December. I CAN, the small charity running Pilgrims, claims a dramatic fall in pupil numbers and a resulting operating shortfall of £400,000 a year have made the school unviable.

Although there is capacity for 56 pupils, all of whom have access to round-the-clock medical care as well as a full education from 4.30pm to 8.30am, only 21 places were confirmed at the start of the academic year. I CAN blames a combination of changes in the management of asthma and eczema, with an increasing emphasis on mainstream schooling, and severe funding pressures in local health and education services.

A statement yesterday described a "difficult decision taken with great sadness" but added: "Unfortunately to date nobody has been prepared to help us and we simply do not have the resources to continue to support the school alone."

Parents of Pilgrims pupils, who yesterday held a 25-strong demonstration outside I CAN's London offices, reject the charity's conclusion. They claim it allowed the school's profile to slip, doing too little to raise awareness of its facilities among parents of asthma sufferers until it was too late. With each pupil bringing £28,000 annually in funding from their local education authority, a full school would be perfectly viable, parents insist.

Patricia Faulkner, mother of Katie, said the school had immeasurably benefited her daughter, who had been struggling with just three hours' home tuition a week after illness forced her to leave her mainstream secondary school. She now faces a search for a suitable alternative school prepared to accept her, but fears she will have to return to home tuition.

Despite yesterday's protest, the closure plans remained unchanged last night. The families are now considering whether they could take over the school themselves.

## Rich may help the poor at Oxford

Wealthier Oxford colleges may bail out their poorer neighbours if the government opts to cut the extra fee paid to collegiate universities. Lucy Ward, Education Correspondent, finds the university considering whether students should be asked to make a further contribution.

Oxford University is taking legal advice over whether it could extend its "Robin Hood" system of redistribution of wealth among colleges if threatened funding cuts are implemented next year.

The university wants to know how far charity law will permit richer colleges, which already pay a voluntary "tax" to those with fewer resources, to use endowments to help those in greater funding trouble.

But it fears colleges' own charitable status, which in some cases bars them from running up deficits, could prevent them offering charity to neighbours.

The Robin Hood option is under consideration as Oxford

and Cambridge await a decision from ministers over the fate of college fees - extra funds paid by local authorities to colleges for each student taught.

Sir Ron Dearing's report on the future of higher education, published in July, recommended a review of the fees, which help fund provision such as tutorial teaching, libraries and pastoral support within individual colleges.

Oxford colleges are devising contingency plans in case the fees, worth £18m annually, are axed. Cambridge, which gains £17m, claims it is concentrating on putting the case for the funding to remain untouched.

John Flemming, warden of Wadham College, Oxford, and chairman of the Conference of Colleges, said the loss of the full £35m could mean 1,000 job losses, academic and non-academic, between the two universities. That could have a devastating effect on the tutorial system, under which Oxbridge students are taught in ones and twos, which both universities consider crucial in retaining world-class quality.

Redistribution of funds from rich colleges, even if legally permissible, would not be

enough to save poorer neighbours if the full college fee is cut, Mr Flemming said. However, it might be viable if only a portion of the money was withheld by the Government. He added: "Everybody feels we are all in this together."

A further option being examined at Oxford is the possibility of charging future students fees to make up for the loss of public funding. The charges would be levied on top of tuition fees of up to £1,000 a year already planned by the government.

Doubt remains over whether asking students to cover for college fees would fall foul of proposed legislation to prevent universities charging top-up fees in addition to the standard tuition fee.

Oxford is also aware that it could not claim to be maintaining or improving access for non-traditional students if it charged fees without taking into account ability to pay. Mr Flemming said: "Any fee would probably only be paid by half the students, so in order to replace a £1,000 college fee you would have to charge a £2,000 fee which you would then waive for half the students."

## Fast-track sacking for poor performance teachers

Around 900 teachers in England and Wales could be at risk of swift dismissal under rigorous new procedures for sacking incompetent staff.

Lucy Ward explains how the unions are supporting a scheme that allows for the removal of the worst teachers in less than a month.

Doug McAvoy, leader of the National Union of Teachers, yesterday insisted that only a "very, very small minority" of the profession would fall foul of the toughest sanctions in new competence procedures. He estimated that 900 staff currently teaching were failing so badly they would risk being removed in just four weeks after a warning over their performance.

Mr McAvoy made his comments after six teaching unions had unanimously supported revised procedures, which are also backed by employers, governors and churches.

The proposals, which have

still to be finally approved by the schools standards minister, Stephen Byers, will slash the time needed to remove failing teachers from as long as two years to four weeks. At most, staff found to be under-performing will be given two terms in which to improve.

Mr McAvoy, speaking on BBC's *Breakfast News*, based his estimate of the number of seriously incompetent staff on the proportion found to be failing during inspections carried out by the schools watchdog, Ofsted.

Out of 48,000 teachers whose lessons have been observed, 88 have been judged to be failing, scoring six or seven on a scale of one to seven.

Peter Smith, general secretary of the Association of Teachers and Lecturers, which also signed up to the new procedures, said that the overwhelming majority of teachers were committed and very hard-working. But he added: "If a small minority of teachers are calling that commitment into question, then we need to do something about that."

Despite their duty to protect members, unions are conscious of the need to weed out those who give the profession a bad name. However, they have al-

ways insisted there are far fewer such staff than has been suggested by Chief Inspector of Schools, Chris Woodhead, who has claimed that there are about 15,000 incompetent teachers.

David Blunkett, the Secretary of State for Education and Employment, welcomed the agreement. "Parents and governors and good teachers will be reassured that action will be taken where it is appropriate, and that the emergency steps can be brought to bear within a month if things have gone drastically wrong," he said.

The so-called "capability procedures", published yesterday by the conciliation service Acas, are not designed to deal with problems of teacher misconduct or ill-health.

Where teachers are found to be failing to teach to an acceptable standard, they will be given improvement targets to meet. Despite initial opposition from unions, the agreement provides for the removal in four weeks of staff whose incompetence jeopardises children's education.

However, following union pressure, a category of "gross incompetence" proposed by local authority employers has not been included in the final document.

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## All eyes turned on world of birdwatching

More than 90 countries are this weekend participating in the 1997 World Birdwatch.

Events are taking place at Royal Society for the Protection of Birds sites all over Britain. Yesterday, in Battersea Park, children from the South London Montessori School (pictured right with Neil Anderson of the RSPB) received lessons in birdwatching. They were among 23,000 children from 357 schools who were taking part in Schools Birdwatch yesterday.

For information on weekend events, contact World Birdwatch Hotline 01273 299399



## Private security firm brands people criminals

A private security company has plastered posters around a city naming alleged "criminals" and accusing the men and women of a range of offences including murder and drug dealing. The police say the move by SAS Patrol Group is irresponsible, and fear it could lead to vigilante attacks. The posters include addresses and photographs of the accused people. At least one man is considering suing the private security firm.

The posters have gone up in an exclusive residential area in the west of Bristol under the headline "WARNING". They feature people that the security firm claims are burglars, car thieves or drug dealers. One lists the names and addresses of thirteen men, another lists nine men and a woman. They carry details of the alleged crimes and hours of operation. One man is described as a killer.

One of the named men plans to take legal action against the firm. He strongly denied the claim that he is "a major receiver of stolen goods, the number one criminal in Sea Mills and violent". He said: "I will be seeing my solicitor about this. The worst thing I have ever done was steal a moped when I was 15."

Andrew Burke, who founded SAS Patrol Group, said: "I stand by everything that is on the posters. Let them sue me, the more the merrier. Everything on the posters is true anyway. I hope they've got van loads of money as I've got special libel insurance covering me for £10 million. I hope to make them all bankrupt."

Mr Burke said the information had come from his own security men and police officers who work in the area. An Avon and Somerset Police spokesman said: "We would not support this sort of action. We have found in the past that this sort of information is based on supposition and rumour."

The incident is the latest example of vigil anti action by private guards. The Home Office is currently considering whether to introducing a licensing system for private security firms, which currently go unchecked.

Jason Bennett, Crime Correspondent

## Home Office pays £20,000 to Jamaican seized at Gatwick

A West Indian detained by immigration officers after arriving in Britain on holiday accepted £20,000 agreed damages from the Home Office to settle his claim for false imprisonment.

Peter Honegan, 32, a motor mechanic from Jamaica, was detained at Gatwick airport on 21 December 1993 after arriving to spend Christmas and the New Year with relatives. His solicitor Louise Christian told Mr Justice Morland in the High Court in London yesterday that Mr Honegan, who had a return ticket for 17 January 1994, was taken to a detention centre. He was served with a notice refusing him leave to enter the UK and detained.

On Christmas Eve he was moved to a cell in Gatwick police station. Ms Christian said: "On Christmas Day a High Court judge, Mr Justice Clark, granted a telephone application for leave to move for judicial review of the refusal to enter and made an interim order restraining the Secretary of State from removing Mr Honegan from the UK. Mr Honegan was granted temporary admission to the UK until January 17, 1994, and released from detention a few minutes after midnight on December 26, 1993."

Claude Moraes, of the Joint Council for the Welfare of Immigrants, said: "This case is important because Britain now detains more people under immigration powers, in the Immigration Act 1971, than any other EU country."

## Sinn Fein to take oath challenge to European Court



Sinn Fein said yesterday that it was prepared to fight all the way to the European Court to win access to the facilities of the House of Commons after Martin McGuinness lost the first round of a court battle yesterday to challenge the oath of allegiance to the Queen.

The party insisted it would not give up after Mr Justice Kerr ruled in the High Court in Belfast that the Mid-Ulster MP could not apply for a judicial review. Mr McGuinness had sought to challenge a ruling by Speaker Betty Boothroyd that he and Sinn Féin president Gerry Adams, MP for West Belfast, could not use the facilities of the Commons because they had not taken their seats. To take their seats the two men have to swear an oath of allegiance to the Queen - which they have refused to do.

The judge said the Speaker's ruling lay within the realm of the internal arrangements of the Commons and was therefore not subject to a judicial review. "The House is entitled to unfettered control of its own internal arrangement."

### CORRECTION

The name of the architects mentioned in "The pick of British architecture now" (*Independent*, 23 September 1997) should have read Cornelius McClymont, and not as printed.

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TO TALK  
TO SOMEONE  
YOU  
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When you have a problem, it's the most natural thing in the world to want to talk it through with someone.

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An obvious choice would be a close friend. But let's face it, we don't always choose our friends for their amazing powers of tact, diplomacy and discretion. Tell one person, and you may end up telling the world.

You may be lucky enough to be able to talk to someone in your family. Then again, you may be one of the large number of people who find talking to your nearest and dearest agonisingly embarrassing.

A girlfriend or boyfriend? If you can, great. But sometimes we don't want to expose our weaknesses to those who fancy us.

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## Mutiny in the ranks sours regimental reunion



The issue of whether wives can accompany a dwindling number of Second World War veterans to a reunion lunch has led to something resembling a mutiny in the ranks. Jojo Moyes charts a peculiarly English battle.

Next Thursday will see the annual reunion of the First Household Cavalry Regiment. Usually, these gatherings are occasions for solidarity and goodwill. But this year it has become the unlikely battleground for a bad-tempered dispute between the Duke of Wellington and his old soldiers.

For the past 50 years, veterans from the Household Cavalry who served before or during the Second World War have been meeting at an annual reunion at Hyde Park Barracks in London. Due to their age, numbers have inevitably dwindled, to the point where there was a question over the event's future.

Charles Farrow is a 78-year-old former Royal Horse Guards trooper from Sussex, who spends his retirement "riding a 3.5 litre V8 engine tricycle which terrifies small children, old ladies, horses and myself". At last year's event, he proposed including wives and siblings (and, optimistically, "live-in-lovers"), who had previously been allowed entry to the barracks, but had to wait for the men in a separate room.

His idea says Mr Farrow, received the "overwhelming support" of all the soldiers present. But following this decision, the

regiment's president, the Duke of Wellington, ignored the soldiers and reinstated the embargo on women.

The ensuing battle took place not in the trenches, but via the Post Office. The exchange of correspondence has left Mr Farrow accusing the Duke of still behaving as if the men were his subordinates. Meanwhile, the exasperated representatives of the Duke have suggested that the "confounded" Mr Farrow stay away.

The dispute began in February, when Mr Farrow wrote to the regiment's dining club asking why "such a small change had been vetoed - I have always felt that it was humiliating, especially for wives, to have to sit alone in the bar waiting for their menfolk to conclude their celebration".

The refusal, he claimed, could not be on security grounds, as women were allowed to wait in the barracks, nor could it be a case of sexual discrimination "as this would be against the law".

In June, the Duke replied, saying: "I am not prepared to countenance any alterations to the arrangements already made for this year's luncheon." He took "great exception" that Mr Farrow should consider raising "a domestic and private matter" with the press, and asked him to desist.

Mr Farrow considered the Duke to be pulling rank, and offered a swift counter-attack. "May I point out that it is now more than 50 years since any of our surviving members were subject to the rules and regulations of the British Army ...

The fact that you seem determined to ignore is that an unelected cabal of just three men have seen fit to arbitrarily re-

verse the democratically expressed wish of our members," he replied.

For the Duke's representatives, this may have been seen as something close to mutiny. On 31 July, Mr Farrow received a letter from the club's assistant secretary: "Dear Farrow (sic). Since our last reunion dinner you have proved to be a confounded nuisance. I have had enough! If you do not like what is on offer, the best option you have open to you is to stay away. Yours very, very truly ..."

Mr Farrow did not buckle. Here was a man, after all, who had been "chased all over the Western Desert by Rommel", and wounded in Normandy.

"The tone and content of the letter that I have just received from you really worries me. I cannot help but think that you are losing your grip on things and I am truly sorry if the strain is proving too much for you," he replied. "One would have thought that, after 50 years, those of us that survive, from top to bottom, could think of themselves as a unified band of old warriors - comrades. Bound only by friendship and no longer restricted by rank. But it just ain't so."

Despite the unpleasant tone of the correspondence, Mr Farrow said yesterday that there may be hope for a truce. He had just received a "communication" informing guests at the lunch that there would be a discussion on one item - whether wives should be allowed to attend future reunions.

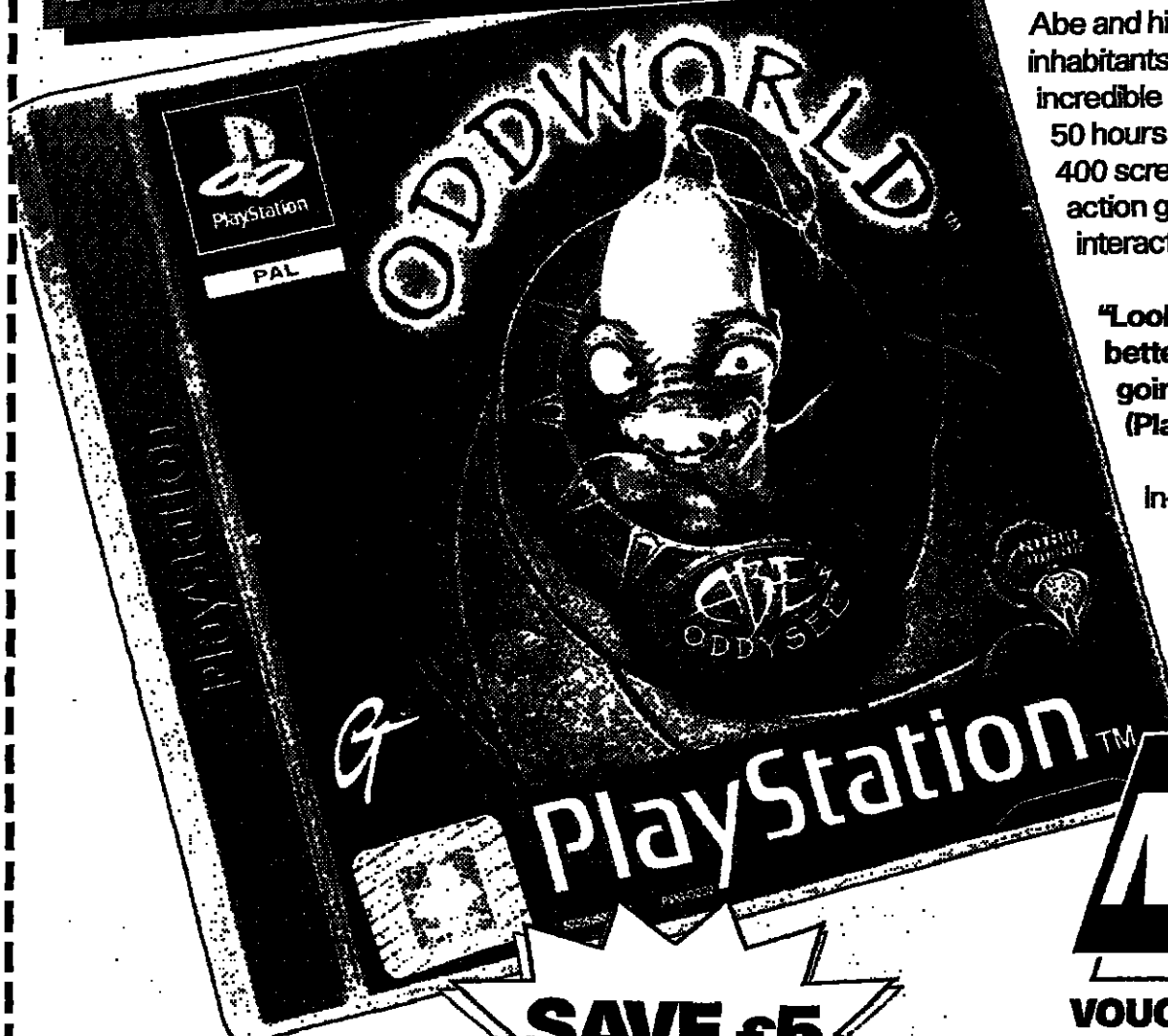
"I consider that I may have won the battle but not the war," Mr Farrow said yesterday. "In the meantime, another year will have gone by where the wives cannot attend, and there will be even fewer of us left."



Fighting spirit: Charles Farrow on his motorised tricycle near his home in Seaford, East Sussex. Top: In Palestine, 1940. Main photograph: Peter Macdiarmid

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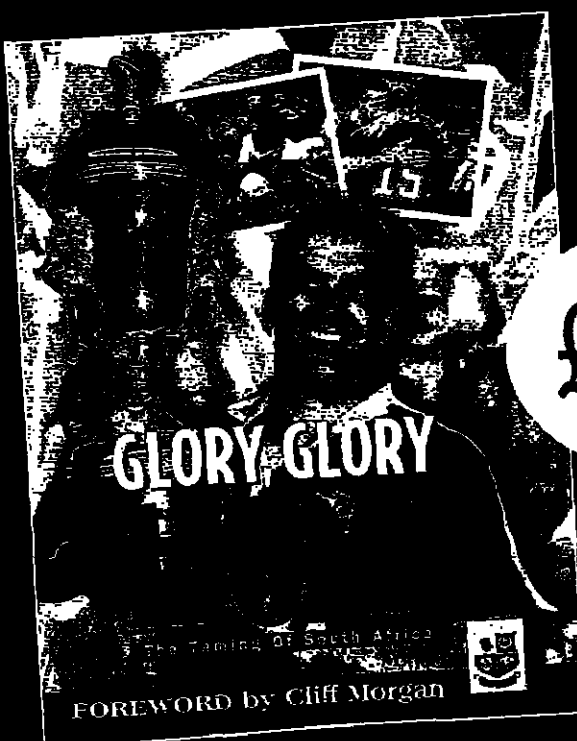


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## Attempted suicide casts a pall over Australian politics

The attempted suicide of a senior opposition MP accused of fiddling his expenses has inflamed the debate in Australia over standards in public life, and cast a shadow over Prime Minister John Howard's attempts to improve them. Robert Miliken looks at a sorry affair.



Norman Sherry: left note to news agency

Australia's political world was rocked yesterday after a suicide attempt by a leading opposition MP who has been under fire in Parliament for making false travel allowance claims when he was staying at his mother's house in Tasmania.

Nick Sherry, deputy leader of the Labor opposition in the Senate, the upper house, was rushed to hospital in Canberra yesterday after a staff member found him apparently unconscious in his flat.

British-born Mr Sherry, 42, had left a note overnight at Parliament House in the bureau of a news agency, in which he apologised for behaving "stupidly". The agency raised the alarm

when he failed to answer the phone at his Canberra flat. Mr Sherry was described as conscious and in a stable condition last night.

The drama came after a week of uproar in the Australian parliament over a version of political sleaze known as the "travel rorts" affair ("rort" is an Australianism for fraud or rip-off). The conservative coalition government, led by John Howard, and the Labor opposition, led by Kim Beazley, have hurled accusations over MPs abusing their right to claim daily allowances when on parliamentary business.

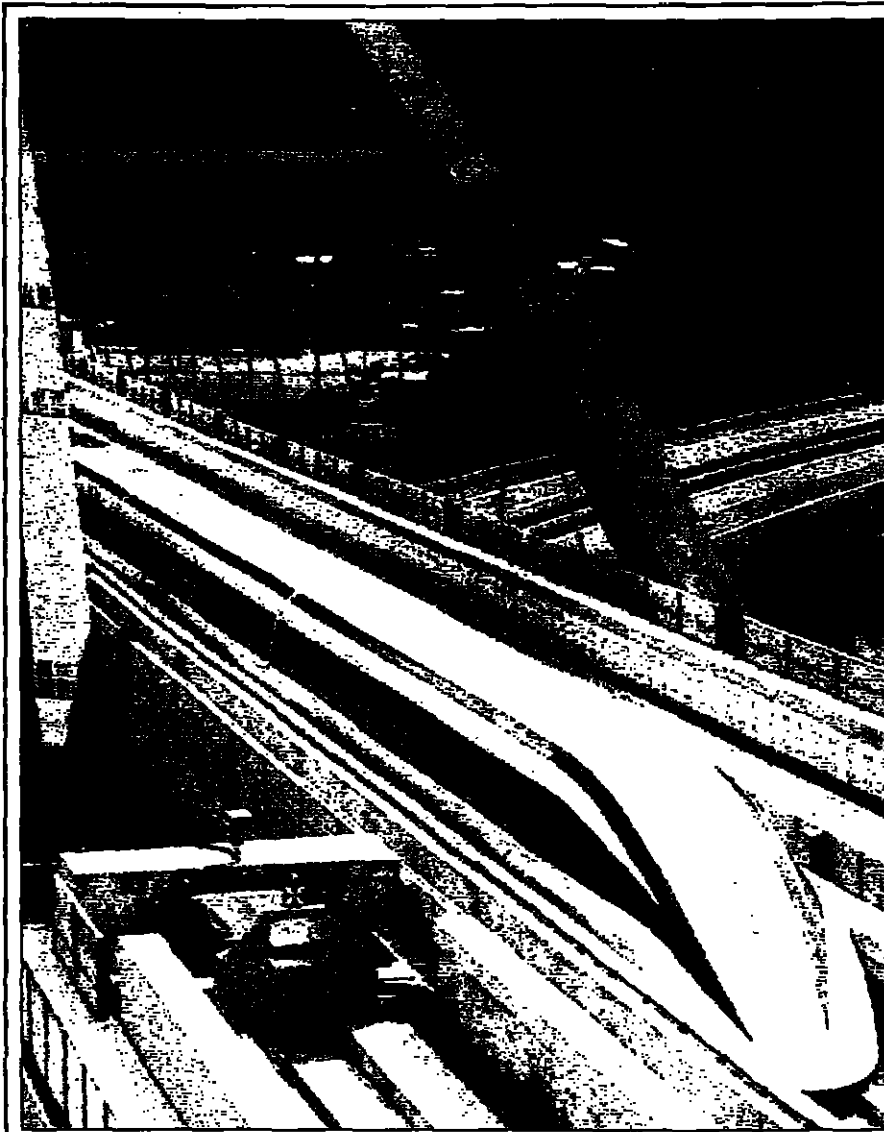
The affair has already claimed the careers of three

ministers who resigned a week ago after revelations that they had paid back large sums of invalidly claimed allowances, or had covered up such repayments. Three civil servants also quit over their involvement, one of them Mr Howard's most trusted adviser.

Over the past few days, the government has turned the attack on to Labor, particularly Mr Sherry who comes from Tasmania. They accused him of claiming a total of A\$43,000 (£19,000) for official stays in Hobart, the Tasmanian capital, when, in fact, he was staying for free with his mother.

But Mr Sherry's suicide attempt yesterday brought a chill to the scene. The affair has highlighted a mounting cynicism among Australians towards their political leaders, particularly as Mr Howard came to power in March last year promising new standards of propriety in public life.

It has now emerged that many MPs saw abuse of the travel allowance scheme as a way of making up for what they regard as their low rates of pay. A federal backbench MP in Australia receives a basic salary of about A\$80,000 (£36,000) before allowances.



Speeding bullet: The Japanese Maglev train beat the world rail speed record yesterday by clocking 451 kph on the test track at Yamanashi, Japan. Photograph: AFP

## Campaign funds probe into Gore

The chief law officer of the US is expanding a judicial inquiry into the activities of Vice President Al Gore. It is claimed that his money-raising efforts for the Democratic Party during the last presidential election broke the law. The decision could have serious implications for Mr Gore's future career, says Mary Dejevsky.

The decision of Janet Reno, the US Attorney General, to extend the inquiry into the Vice President follows an 11-month investigation into whether Mr Gore broke an 1883 law which limits the ways in which politicians may raise party funds. The main allegations concern telephone calls Mr Gore is said to have made from his White House office to solicit contributions to the Democrats.

According to US newspaper reports, citing White House telephone accounts, he raised millions of dollars from hundreds of calls made during the 1996 election campaign. The law makes it an offence to use

federal premises for raising party funds.

Mr Gore - who has made no secret of his ambition to succeed Bill Clinton as president in 2001 - has admitted making calls, but insists that what he did was legal. Both he and President Clinton - who could face a similar investigation - have accused leading Republicans of engaging in a witch-hunt.

While the Gore camp played down the significance of Ms Reno's decision, they were clearly preparing for further trouble. If, as is considered likely, the 60-day investigation announced yesterday results in the appointment of an independent prosecutor - so taking the case out of the political domain for the first time - this would virtually guarantee that the investigation would continue into the next presidential campaign in 2000, raising serious questions about Mr Gore's prospects for election.

Mr Gore has already hired a leading lawyer, James Neal, to advise him. The appointment, however, who is also a family friend from his home state of Tennessee, is already causing Mr Gore further grief, following revelations that he is providing his (very expensive) services free.

## Bush gets German honour

Former US President George Bush, honoured by Germany for his efforts to end the Cold War, said yesterday that the country's unification had captured the world's imagination and paved the way for a safer future. Speaking at a ceremony on German Unity Day, marking the seventh anniversary of unification, he said the former Soviet leader, Mikhail Gorbachev, and German Chancellor Helmut Kohl had played important roles in reuniting Europe. But Mr Bush, president when the Berlin Wall fell in November 1989, said the Iron Curtain was not torn down by political leaders in Washington, Bonn or Prague, but by people who craved freedom. — Reuters

## Chirac's euro pledge

President Jacques Chirac said yesterday that France and Italy both wanted to be members of the single European currency from 1999 and would do what was necessary to reach it. He reiterated his support for Italian membership at the end of a Franco-Italian summit in Chambéry in the French Alps where Prime Minister Romano Prodi met him despite the government crisis simmering back home in Rome. — Reuters

## Indonesia punishes log firms

Indonesia yesterday revoked logging licences of 29 timber firms implicated in fires responsible for choking smog across much of southeast Asia. The official Antara news agency said the move followed an ultimatum to 176 companies to account for their actions after satellite data images showed so-called fire hotspots on land licensed to the firms. The deadline expired on Thursday. — Reuters

## Second quake hits basilica of St Francis

Another powerful earthquake rocked central Italy yesterday, causing more damage to the frescoed interior of the 13th century Basilica of St Francis in Assisi. The quake followed two similar-strength tremors a week ago which killed 11 people, flattened mountain villages and brought part of the basilica ceiling crashing to the ground.

Yesterday's earthquake, which struck while firefighters were working on the historic church to patch up last week's damage, caused part of the exterior wall just under the roof to crumble. The debris fell inwards wrecking further havoc inside the basilica. One friar was hit by falling masonry but no one was seriously injured. "The earthquake was shorter than the one on Friday (last week) but the damage before is now more evident than it was," Father Nicola Giandomenico said. — Reuter

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# Author unrepentant over Diana 'autobiography'

Author Andrew Morton has come under bitter attack for publishing transcripts of tapes made by Diana, Princess of Wales. Michael Streeter finds Morton insisting he has behaved honourably and accusing his critics of hypocrisy.

When it was published five years ago, *Diana - Her True Story* caused a public furore and made a fortune. The updated version, due out on Monday, is proving almost equally controversial and could lead to legal action from the executors of the late Princess's will. It will also prove very lucrative for Morton and his publishers.

The first wave of condemnation came last week over Morton's announcement that the original book had been in Diana's own words and was in effect her autobiography.

But the fresh revelation that Morton has sold the transcripts of his interviews with the Princess to an American magazine, *People*, for more than £100,000 has produced even greater outrage.

The 18,000 words, spoken by Diana on a tape at Kensington Palace and then passed to Morton by an unnamed intermediary, formed the basis of

his original book but have never before appeared in publicly available print. Extracts will appear in the new book.

They are said to form a devastating and intensely personal account of the Princess's engagement and marriage to Prince Charles; all in her own words.

Although the transcripts provide little new of substance, the shock comes in reading the bitterness of Diana's own words in criticising her husband and family.

Critics, who include MPs, churchmen and - reportedly - members of the Royal Family itself, criticise Morton for cashing in so soon after the Princess's death and of subjecting her children to yet more details of their parents' unhappy marriage.

Diana's executors, who include her sister Lady Sarah McCorquodale and their mother Frances Shand Kydd, have now taken legal advice about whether they can stop publication of the transcripts and the updated book *Diana: Her True Story - In Her Own Words*.

Yesterday, there was no comment from the Princess's office at Kensington Palace, but legal experts thought that while Diana may retain copyright in her own words, it was an arguable case.

The feeling was that the uncertainty of the legal status of her words - handed with her

permission on tape to Morton - and the risk of prolonging publicity through the matter in the courts would dissuade the executors from action.

In any case it may be too late - early copies of the book are on sale in central London and *People* magazine is already on the news stands.

Last night Earl Spencer and his family were still consulting with lawyers on "various points" and were said to be "very distressed and saddened" by the publication of the book.

Morton himself was unrepentant yesterday. Clearly irritated by the personal attacks from tabloid newspapers which have in the past fed off his words, he accused his detractors

of hypocrisy.

Saying he was proud to have been chosen to write the book, he added: "I think I have behaved extremely honourably throughout this episode."

Mr Morton, who is said to have made £4.5m from the original publication, defended making the transcripts public when Diana's young sons were still grieving.

"If they really wanted to understand their mother, they would want to read her words."

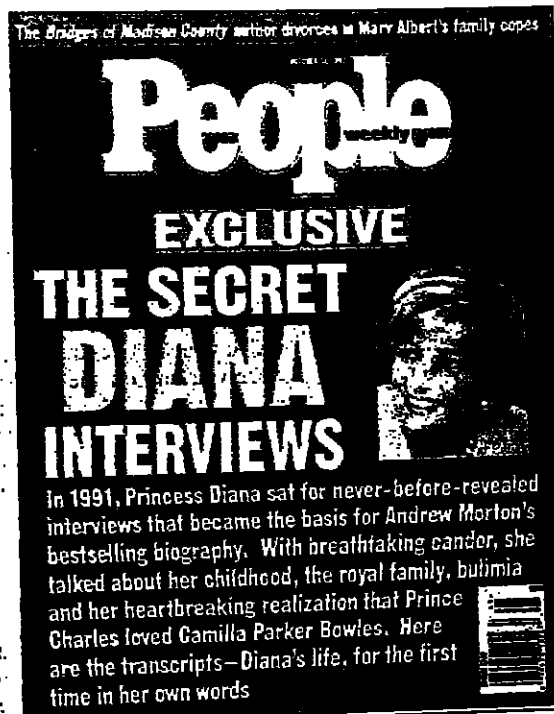
He also denied selling the entire tapes to *People* magazine - just "extracts from the new book".

The author described Diana's words as "her legacy, her final testament".



Hot seat: Andrew Morton leaving LWT studios yesterday after a television interview

Photograph: Geoff Caddick



Big issue: The US magazine *People*, which paid over £100,000 for transcripts of the tapes

## Survivor of Paris crash flies home

Trevor Rees-Jones, the sole survivor of the car crash which killed Diana, Princess of Wales, one month ago, left hospital in Paris yesterday and flew home to Britain.

The Fayed family bodyguard was taken in a Harrods helicopter to an undisclosed destination, believed to be a convalescence clinic in the London area. French investigators said that they expected to travel to Britain to interview Mr Rees-Jones, 29, again in about two weeks' time.

During his second meeting



Rees-Jones: Suffering partial amnesia

with detectives, on Thursday, the former paratrooper was able to provide some fresh evidence on the chain of events leading to the accident in an underpass beneath the Place de l'Alma in central Paris in the early hours of 31 August. But, once again, he was unable to recall anything of the accident itself or much of the high-speed drive from the Ritz Hotel which proceeded it.

Sources in the investigation told *Le Figaro* that Mr Rees-Jones had been able to identify, from photographs, several paparazzi who had behaved aggressively towards Diana's party earlier in the day. He also confirmed that it was his boss, Diana's companion Dodi Fayed, who devised a decoy plan to escape the photographers. It was this scheme that put the Ritz deputy head of security, Henri Paul, at the wheel of a high-powered, armoured Mercedes that he was not qualified to drive. Mr Rees-Jones apparently said that he had been against the plan. Both Mr Paul and Mr Fayed died in the crash.

Autopsies on Mr Paul's body have revealed that he had been drinking heavily and had taken prescription anti-depressant and mind-calming drugs. Mr Rees-Jones says he showed no signs of intoxication or unsteadiness before taking the wheel of the Mercedes. The bodyguard also told detectives, according to *Le Figaro*, that Diana showed no particular interest in the arrangements.

Mr Rees-Jones suffered grave facial injuries and less serious head and chest injuries in the crash. As is often the case with victims of head injuries, he is suffering from partial, and maybe temporary, amnesia. Yesterday he was able to walk unaided as he transferred between helicopters at Issy-Les-Moulineaux. He wore a large plaster-cast on his left forearm, his lower face seemed puffy and swollen and there were bruises around his eyes.

— John Lichfield, Paris

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## Blair pays tribute to party progress

A hint of more money for the NHS was given by Tony Blair yesterday, at the end of his first party conference as Prime Minister. Anthony Bevis, political editor, witnessed a barnstorming end to the week

A rip-roaring speech from John Prescott, a fist-raising rendition of the "Red Flag" and a cool assessment by the Prime Minister ended the Labour Party conference yesterday.

After a week in which the leadership again suffered no defeats at the hands of its activists, the Tony Blair recognised that some party members were still clinging to the "old tunes", like renationalisation of the railways.

"I think there are some old tunes that get everyone going," he said in a BBC interview. "But I think what is interesting is that people know they're old tunes and no one really believes, in this day and age, that we should go back to the ways of the past."

Nevertheless, he clearly sought to reassure party and public that he would do all in his power to avert winter crisis in the hospitals, saying that a close watch was being kept on the situation.

"I am not going to get into the position of announcing new sums of money," he said, "but we are putting in, of course, an additional £1bn over and above the Conservatives' spending plans next year, and we're watching very closely the situation this year."

The Prime Minister confirmed that he was considering setting up a judicial inquiry into the introduction of BSE into cattle and the human food chain. "I don't think it is right for me to comment until we make the final decision, but it has been the most appalling problem," he said.

In his wind-up, the Deputy Prime Minister ridiculed the Tories and their new leader, saying that when they went to Blackpool next week, Conservative representatives would be getting the result of their one-member, many-votes ballot for one leader - "Just William".

"William is running against nobody," Mr Prescott said. "It could be quite a close thing. But either way, let's face it, a nobody is bound to win."

He also said that the Tory party was rather like a "wonky supermarket trolley - it pulls to the left, it pulls to the right, but you just can't get it to go forward."

Mr Prescott said Labour and the country should never forget what the Conservatives had done.

But he added: "Now that we've won that famous victory, the most important thing is always to stay true to the people we represent, to deliver on our promises to the electorate."

He said the Government could win the essential, second, five-year term of office to complete its task if it carried on modernising and facing up to tough decisions. "This is about the hard choices of government, not merely the easy words of opposition," he warned.

• A further revelation about John Major's style of government has been delivered by Chris Patten, the former governor of Hong Kong, who says in an interview on Channel 4's *Bye Bye Blues* tomorrow night, that after he had sent him out to the colony, Mr Major occasionally asked him to give up the job and come back - even though he was engaged in negotiating the this year's critical handover to the Chinese.

"It was raised with me on one or two occasions by him and by others," Mr Patten says. "I think he would have liked it if I had been around to take some of the heat and the pressure off him."



Exit right: Tony Blair, John Prescott, and their wives leaving the platform after the conference. Photograph: Brian Harris

## Cabinet hint for Mandelson

A strong hint that Peter Mandelson could be promoted to the Cabinet was delivered yesterday by John Prescott, the Deputy Prime Minister.

Mr Mandelson suffered a setback on Monday, when rank-and-file members did not elect him to the party's ruling national executive committee, preferring Ken Livingstone, the veteran left-winger. But Mr Prescott pointed out yesterday that under a rule change pushed through in Brighton this week, while it was now impossible for Mr Mandelson to be elected to the NEC, he could yet be appointed to one of the new executive places reserved for members of the Cabinet.

The suggestion that Mr Mandelson might join the Cabinet caused some surprise - since Mr Prescott and Mr Mandelson have not been known as Labour's bosom buddies. "Sometimes we've found ourselves on different sides of the argument and we've both got the kind of temperament where we express that," Mr Prescott told BBC Radio 4's *Today* programme. But he insisted: "We get on all right... There's no doubting the professional abilities of Peter."

"I'm sure Peter would probably have got on the executive - but we are now changing the rules so that probably won't happen unless he is appointed from a Cabinet."

Tony Blair is thought to be planning to make Mr Mandelson Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster, in place of David Clarke, and in charge of a revamped Cabinet Office machine that would, in effect, become the Prime Minister's Office.

— Anthony Bevis

## PM's poll winners put their skills up for hire

The Prime Minister's polling adviser Philip Gould has gone into business with the aim of becoming the Saatchi & Saatchi of New Labour. John Rentoul discusses an ambitious plan to exploit commercial interest in the May landslide election victory

James Carville, the "Ragin' Cajun", and the pollster Stan Greenberg were credited with winning the presidency for Bill Clinton. Philip Gould thought that they could weave the same magic for Tony Blair and recruited two of the most famous names in political campaigning to help in the general election campaign.

Now they hope there will be a big corporate market for the secrets of "modernisation", as companies scramble to learn the lessons of Labour's highly professional campaign and its opinion research techniques, many imported from the US.

Their joint venture, called Gould Greenberg Carville NOP, has taken over all opin-

ion research for the Labour Party from NOP, which retains a role as one of four equal shareholders. It was a poll for the new company which found that 93 per cent of people thought Tony Blair was doing a good job as Prime Minister, and only 3 per cent a bad job. The findings were leaked by Labour to the press as its Brighton conference opened last weekend.

The new company promotes itself as a "strategic research consultancy" and sets out its mission as "to work for reformist, modernising and inclusive institutions seeking to adapt to a new era of change".

Mr Carville and Mr Greenberg met Mr Gould when he was drafted in to Little Rock, Arkansas, in 1992 to advise the Clinton campaign how to fight Republican attacks copied from the British Conservatives.

Mr Gould had worked for Labour in a key behind-the-scenes role in two losing elections, and both sides learned from each other. After President Clinton took office, Mr Carville and Mr Greenberg looked abroad for opportunities to help win elections for centre-left candidates.

Mr Carville worked for Constantine Mistotakis, the Greek Prime Minister, while Mr Greenberg took time out to work for Nelson Mandela in South Africa's first multi-racial elections.

They returned to the fringes of Mr Clinton's re-election campaign last year, but had also started to take a close interest in the coming British election.

Mr Greenberg flew from the US to be part of the Millbank Tower team during the campaign, and will spend one week a month in London on the new venture. Mr Carville gave advice by telephone, but is expected to fly to London later this month to launch the company. However, his role is likely to be mainly to lend credibility, especially with potential American clients.

Winning elections can mean big money in the private sector, as the Saatchi brothers and their former colleague Sir Tim Bell showed. They built their advertising agency into a business with global pretensions on the strength of the 1979 Tory win. Sir Tim then cashed in on his role with a successful lobbying and corporate strategy company, Lowe Bell.

### Shining stars of the darkest political arts



Philip Gould

An obsessive political junkie, he gave up a career in advertising after selling the agency he created. He is now a central figure in the modernisation of the Labour Party, close to Mr Blair and an ally of Peter Mandelson.

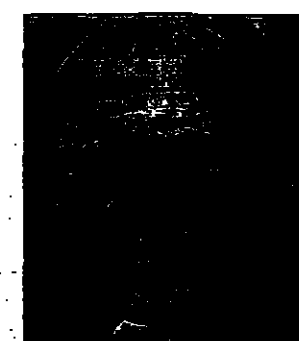
Responsible for polling and advertising at Millbank HQ in the election, he was trusted by the party leader to tell him what the public really thought. He is a great believer in focus groups, informal discussions with small groups of floating voters, which he always conducts himself.



Stan Greenberg

A left-wing academic turned centrist pollster, Greenberg was one of the architects of the "modernisation" of the US Democratic Party.

He identified the swing voters of McComb county, a blue-collar area outside Detroit, as the key to wresting the suburbs from the Republicans - the Bastion of American politics. He helped develop Bill Clinton's platform: ending welfare as we know it, tough on crime, on the side of the "forgotten middle class" who "work hard and play by the rules".



James Carville

The crazy hero of Clinton's 1992 campaign, he was the inspiration for the unconventional style of the Little Rock war room. As a spin doctor, he bewitched the media with his quick Southern wit and passionate commitment to the cause.

He became even more of a media star after the election, marrying Mary Matalin, George Bush's spokeswoman, who had ended the campaign by screaming at him for helping elect "a slime, a scum, a philandering, pot-smoking, draft-dodging pig of a man".

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# 11/RELIGION

كلنا من الأصل

## The promise people are marching on Washington

More than half a million American men are expected in Washington today for a six-hour extravaganza of hymn-singing, prayer and contrition - in the name of Christian family values. To many, the rally is a sign of hope; to some, including some women's groups, it has a sinister side. Mary Dejevsky explains.

Today's mass gathering in the Washington Mall, the broad thoroughfare more used to carnival parades and protests than prayer meetings, is called "Stand in the Gap", a phrase taken from the Old Testament prophet Ezekiel who "looked for a man among them who would build up the wall and stand before me in the gap on behalf of the land, so I would not have to destroy it". Ezekiel "found none".

The organisers, hoping to succeed where the prophet failed, are Promise Keepers, a seven-year old organisation led by a football coach turned evangelist, Bill McCartney, that has grown from a core of fewer than 100 who attended the first rally in Denver seven years ago to a nationwide organisation with more than one million members last year and an income of almost US\$100m (£62m).

Although its founder, Bill McCartney, like the majority of members, is white,

membership is open to all men, of whatever age and ethnic group, who are prepared to sign up to seven promises, which include "honouring Jesus Christ through worship, prayer and obedience to God's word", "building strong marriages and families through love, protection and biblical values" and a commitment to church attendance and participation.

Its supporters, of whom there are very many across a broad political and social spectrum, place the movement in a benign American tradition of male Christian movements, from the muscular Christianity of the early years of this century, through the Boy Scout movement.

They note approvingly that it lacks the racial element of Louis Farrakhan's exclusively black Million Man March of two years ago - with which today's rally is sometimes compared. So, thousands of men are committing themselves to Christian and family values; what is so wrong with that?

Two things, according to its critics. One, especially for its female critics, is its male exclusiveness and emphasis on male authority. If it is so serious about family values, they say, why is it that women are kept out? And - a concern, voiced strongly by Patricia Ireland, leader of the National Organisation of Women - why the emphasis on female submission and obedience within the family? The Promise Keepers movement is seen by Ms Ireland and others as an attempt by men to take back the ground that women have gained thanks to the women's movement, put women

back in the kitchen and make them subservient to their husbands. Bill McCartney defends the movement's maleness by arguing that because men are at the root of so much that has failed in society, it makes sense to call them to account. Some female supporters of Promise Keepers say that the sense of responsibility and involvement in the family that men acquire when they join the organisation simply makes them better husbands and fathers and - despite the teaching that the husband is head of the household - does nothing to restrict the wife's freedom.

The other criticism is that Promise Keepers has a right-wing conservative agenda and is intended to be the fifth column of the religious right and the Republican Party for the next presidential election, taking over where the declining Christian Coalition left off. Mr McCartney denies any political agenda, and says his anti-abortion views are personal and not imposed on the movement.

In any case, Promise Keepers may just have peaked too soon to have a major political impact. Income and attendance at rallies this year has fallen by one third - a decline that today's rally will arrest.

By yesterday morning, armies of professionals and volunteers were erecting huge screens and a giant platform on the Mall. Sandwich and soft-drinks vendors were establishing their pitches and more than 1,000 portable toilets were being wheeled into place. The only question was how many would turn up?



Followers of the Promise Keepers movement at a rally earlier this year

Ronnie Anderson/Sunday Mail

## The Pope joins battle in Brazil's war of religion

The Pope arrived this week in Brazil, ostensibly to push family values. Catholic church officials admit, however, that the pontiff is keen to stem the flow of Catholics to evangelical churches throughout Latin America.

As Phil Davison reports, both sides have called it a holy war.

Rio de Janeiro city authorities erased the offending red ink in time for Pope John Paul's arrival. But not before the defaced posters of the pontiff had shocked Brazilian Catholics.

At least half a dozen giant billboards erected to welcome the Pope on Thursday had gun sight targets painted in red over his heart. Others were covered in the sort of graffiti that are routine in Protestant areas of Belfast but would have been unthinkable during the pontiff's first visit to Brazil. South America's biggest Catholic country, in 1980.

Thousands of Brazilian troops and police fanned out through Rio's hillside favelas (slums) before the Pope's arrival, detaining drug gang leaders for the duration of the pontiff's four-day visit. Beggars, the homeless and street children were moved to temporary, supervised accommodation.

The authorities were concerned at John Paul's decision to travel past the favelas and to stay at the home of Rio Cardinal Eugenio Sales, perched on Sumare mountain amid seven poverty-stricken and violence-ridden shanty towns. Stray bullets from the slums killed 33 people last year.

But stray bullets were not the main concern of the 26,000 troops and police called in to protect the Pope. Catholic churchmen blamed the graffiti on "radical fundamentalists", widely seen as a reference to extremists among the growing American-style evangelical churches in Brazil and throughout Latin America.

More than half a million members of various evangelical churches held a noisy outdoor rally in the city of Sao Paulo on Sunday in a clear effort to upstage the hundreds of thousands now flocking to see the Pope in Rio.

Archbishop Lucas Moreira Neves said the anti-papal graffiti was aimed at provoking Catholics into a reaction and called on police to identify and arrest those who defaced the Pope's image. "Catholics are not bellicose, nor preoccupied with this holy war, but the lack of respect for our faith could prove a factor for reaction."

In 1970, 92 per cent of Brazilians considered themselves Catholics. By 1991, the figure was just above 80 per cent, and may now be down to 75 per cent, pollsters say. Increasingly disillusioned with Vatican dogma in the face of the modern television world of soap operas, Brazilian Catholics have often become easy converts to evangelists who promise miracles and business success.

Recent surveys in Rio found 84 per cent favoured birth control, 76 per cent thought abortion should be permitted in cases of rape, 74 per cent thought priests should be allowed to marry and 54 per cent approved of non-marital sex. When the Pope came to Brazil in 1980, there were less than five million evangelical Christians. Now there are 15 million, 10 per cent of the population.

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162 CHAPTER - CHAPTER

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Israel has released Sheikh Yassin, the founder of Hamas, as it was demanding Yasser Arafat, the Palestinian leader. Hamas leaders in Jerusalem is already feeling the consequences of the capture of two of its agents in Jordan and the assassination of

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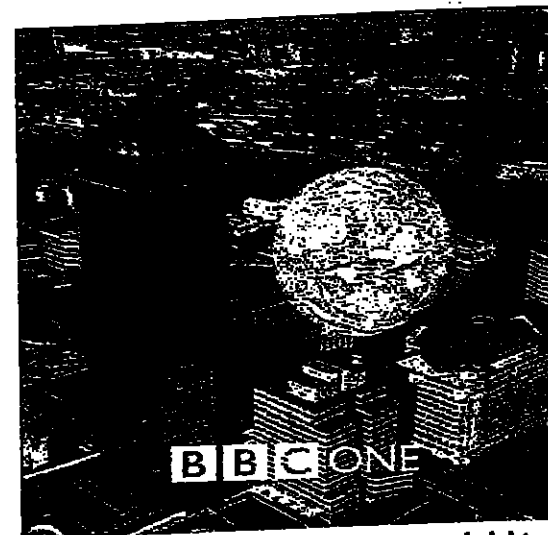
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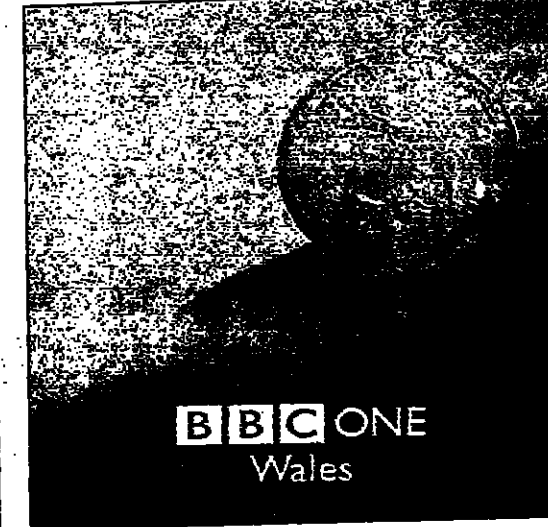
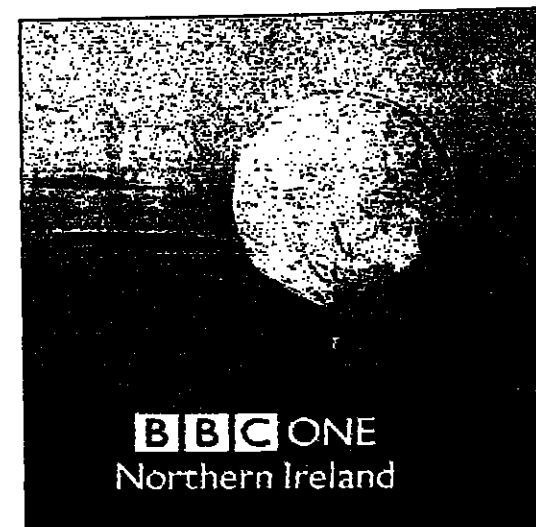
# 14/LEISURE

THE INDEPENDENT  
FRIDAY  
4 OCTOBER 1997

## BBC1's image to have corporate make-over



Floating about: Viewers tuning into BBC1 this morning will see the channel's new image - a bright red globe-shaped balloon - floating over (clockwise) Wales, Scotland, Northern Ireland and England



The BBC is responding to the digital revolution - and devolution - by flying a hot air balloon across the United Kingdom. Rob Brown, Media Editor, says it is not as daft as it sounds.

Successful branding, the obsession of car makers and the marketers of other fast-moving consumer goods, is a trick television companies are fast struggling to learn as the multi-channel era ushers in unprecedented competition for audiences and advertisers.

The BBC is determined to more than match its commercial rivals on this front and ensure that its television and

radio networks maintain a strong profile in a fast fragmenting media marketplace.

Which is why from 6am to 10pm viewers who tune into BBC1 will, in between programmes, start to see a big bright red globe-shaped balloon floating above Eilean Donan Castle, Canary Wharf, Cardiff City Hall and seven other distinctive landscapes and cityscapes across the UK.

Unveiling the channel's brand-building new look at Television Centre yesterday, Alan Yentob, the BBC's director of television, conceded that the existing BBC1 globe had never generated as much public affection as the wacky "2" logos.

"BBC1 needs an identity which is more flexible and appealing," he said. "The globe has always been associated with

the BBC's flagship channel and the choice of a balloon seemed to us an imaginative way of emphasising the universal appeal of this network. I do believe this is a memorable image which will allow the channel to embrace the whole of the UK."

Six of the 10 initial "idents" were shot in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland, confirming the corporation's desire to be seen to better serve the so-called "national regions" - a desire which has clearly risen since the Scottish and Welsh devolution referendums.

Re-branding the BBC mainstream channel is costing just over £500,000, but the new identity will be seen up to 10,000 times a year. The corporation aims to spend £5.2m over the next three years on a

new corporate image, reviving the elegant typeface created by designer and sculptor Eric Gill in the 1930s.

The updated logo has been developed by the award-winning brand identity expert Martin Lambie-Nairn to work both on and off-screen. It will be emblazoned on everything connected with the corporation, from its office stationery and fleet of outside broadcast units to the listings in *Radio Times*.

Pam Masters, the BBC's Director of Broadcasting and Presentation, said: "At a time of unprecedented competition in broadcasting and the impending explosion of new digital and widescreen channels and services, the BBC has an ideal opportunity to reappraise its identity and, in particular, make it suitable for use on screen."



Schoolboy or City gent, conkers players all search for the secret of a tougher nut

Photograph: James Gray

## Science joins search for a conkering hero

It's a tough nut that even scientists find hard to crack: what should you do to ensure that you have a winning conker, which when drilled and threaded on string will beat off all comers?

It is not a trivial question: for example, the World Conker Championship, being held tomorrow outside Nottingham, are expected to attract 800 people, all of whom take their sport deadly seriously.

But should you pickle it in vinegar, or bake it in an oven, or both? Or is there another answer?

Readers of *New Scientist* magazine reckon that they know. In reply to an anguished query asking "Which method produces winning conkers, and why?" the

scientific readership was quick to respond. "Do not put your conkers in vinegar," advised Patrick Wigg of London sternly, explaining that though this hardens the shell it can weaken the flesh - "making the conker useless." He advised baking at Gas Mark 1. (*The Independent's* executive news editor has determined empirically that this causes raw conkers to explode.)

"I always soak them in vinegar," said Michael Dutton, of Gloucester. "This hardens them into champion conkers." However, he admitted that: "I was content with this method until a few years ago when I was beaten by someone who had smeared his conker in Oil of Ulay. Apparently, this made the conker more

malleable, allowing it to absorb the impact of my prize pickled nut."

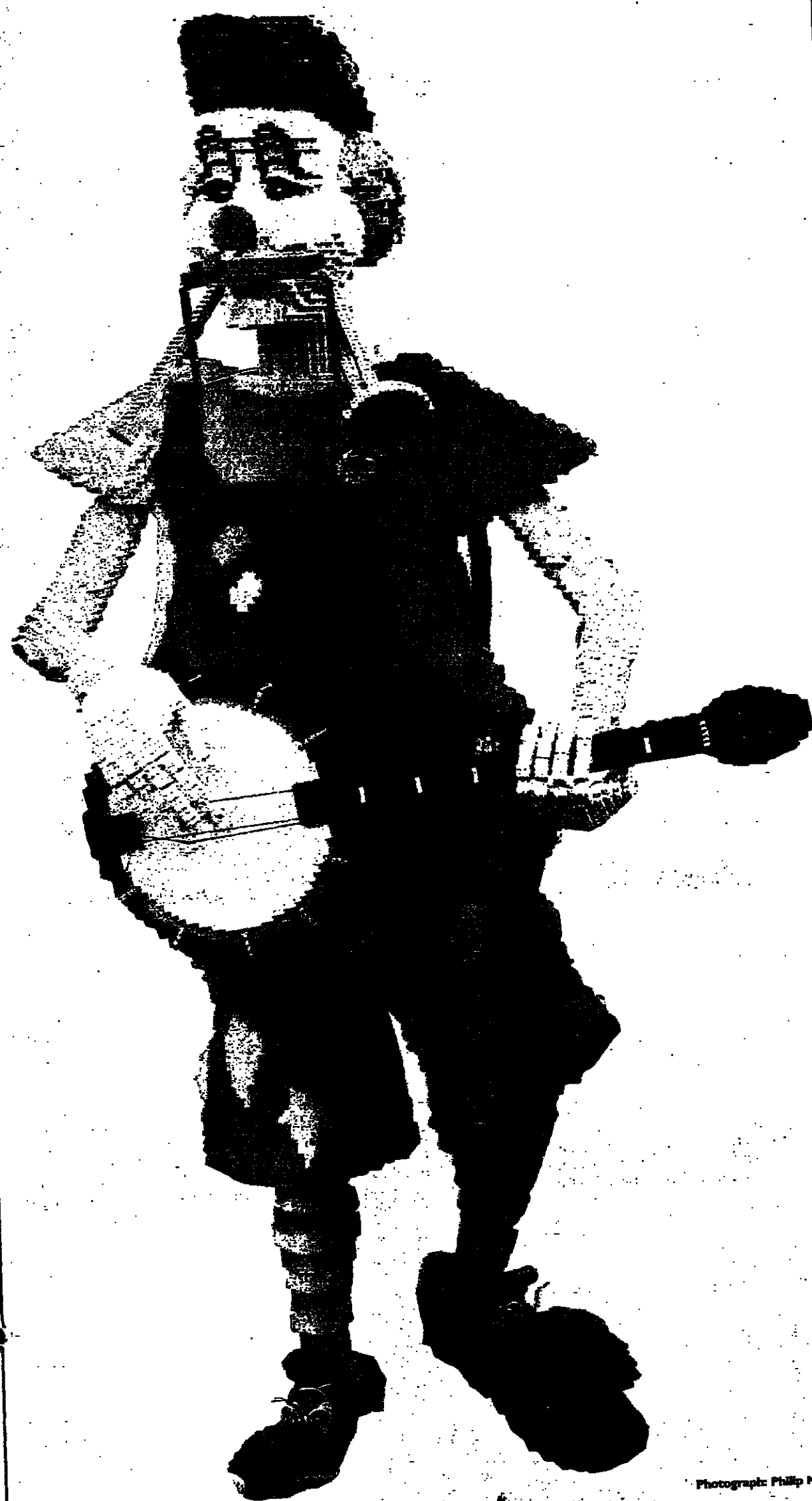
Nick Anichison said: "Pickling rots the inside. Varnishing is also ineffective (and readily detectable)." Instead, he - and at least two other respondents - recommend *laissez-faire*: put your conker in a drawer for a year and leave it alone. "The older they are, the harder they are."

Such as show of scientific indeterminism has apparently proved too much for *New Scientist*. "As such disputes are an essential part of the sport, we leave the question with the totally contradictory answer given," wrote the editor. But, presumably, it'll be back next year.

Charles Arthur, Science Editor

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Photograph: Philip Meach

## Please dad, can we go to Legoland instead?

Britain's top tourist attractions are drawing more visitors than ever before.

But, as Amanda Kelly discovered, it is not just the traditional choices that are pulling in the crowds.

strength and quality of the Lego brand."

The next most popular attraction was Deep Sea World at Queensferry in Scotland which had 403,319 visitors, while Buckingham Palace came in third place with 398,000 visitors, although it is only open to tourists for two months of the year while the Queen is at Balmoral.

The survey, carried out

for the tourist boards in England, Scotland, Northern Ireland and Wales, showed that overall there were 402 million visitors to attractions, with spending by trippers up 10 per cent to a record £2.1bn. The average admission charge for adults was £2.58.

Of the destinations which were open before 1992, Alton Towers came top for the fifth consecutive year with 2.7 mil-

lion paying customers and the most popular free attraction was Blackpool Pleasure Beach, with 7.5 million visits.

But it is not just theme parks and fairgrounds that have enjoyed a successful year. Visits to museums and art galleries jumped 5 per cent to 79.6 million, visits to wildlife attractions were up 7 per cent to 22.4 million, while visits to farms rose between 1989 and 1996 by 65 per cent.

The growing popularity of period television dramas has also helped to boost the number of people visiting some of the country's most picturesque historical buildings. The appearance of Sudbury Hall in Derbyshire as the setting for the film of Jane Austen's *Pride and Prejudice* helped it to pull in 64,670 visitors, while Little Moreton Hall, Cheshire, where *Moll Flanders* was shot, attracted 64,935.

A spokesman for the English Tourist Board, said: "It has been a really good year for the industry. I think this is partly down to the large amounts of money being invested in better facilities. Thorpe Park, for example, has recently opened the darkest and first-ever backwards roller-coaster... The attractions are also marketing themselves better so people are finding out about places they wouldn't otherwise know existed."

### The top 20 new attractions

The top 20 attractions opened between 1992 and 1996, which charge admission, are:

Attraction	1996 visits
Legoland, Windsor	1,420,511
Deep Sea World, North Queensferry	403,319
Buckingham Palace, London	398,000
Birmingham National Sea Life Centre	390,000
Royal Armouries Museum, Leeds	382,000
Eureka Museum for Children, Halifax	365,000
Anything to Declare? HM Customs Museum, Liverpool	349,059
World of Coronation St, Blackpool	250,000
Lost Gardens of Heligan, St Austell	200,000
Tate Gallery, St Ives	180,000
Loudoun Castle Theme Park, Galston	171,943
Shakespeare's Globe Exhibition, London	155,429
Amazonia, Bowness in Windermere	150,000
Exploria, Portlerry	137,023
Museum of Liverpool Life	117,799
Derbies Wine Estate, Dorking	115,000
Breadalbane Folklore Centre, Kilin	109,939
Staplehill Abbey Crafts and Gardens, Wimborne	108,939
Fantasy Ireland, Portrush	103,453
South Lakes Wild Animal Park, Dalton in Furness	100,768

The plastic world of Legoland is a more popular choice for an afternoon out than the grand walls of Buckingham Palace, according to a survey published today.

The toymaker's pleasure park beat off competition from 20 other leading sights opened between 1992 and 1996 to become Britain's top new tourist attraction.

In the year since it first opened its doors in 1996, more than 1.4 million people went to see the model village in Windsor, Berkshire, which is made entirely out of the children's plastic building blocks.

Joanna Oswin, a spokeswoman for Legoland, Joanna Oswin said: "We are strongly rated by the kids themselves and playground cred is high. We have thrills of a different kind and rides on a different scale - providing excitement, adventure, interaction and fun. With parents, it's the

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# 16/IN THE COURTS

## Man freed after RUC murder charges dropped

Republican to seek compensation from the DPP after being cleared for the second time in a year in connection with terrorist killings.

A man walked free from a Northern Ireland court yesterday after a double murder charge against him was dropped and then he condemned the system which put him behind bars for the second time for a crime he did not commit.

Colin Duffy, 29, has instructed lawyers to seek compensation after the Director of Public Prosecutions dropped charges of murdering two Royal Ulster Constabulary officers.

The officers were shot dead by the IRA in his home town of Lurgan, Co. Armagh during the summer.

It is the second time that Mr Duffy's name has been cleared in connection with terrorist killings.

In September last year, he was released from prison after serving three-and-a-half years when the Court of Appeal quashed a life sentence for murder.

A week after the ambush of the two policemen on 16 June this year Mr Duffy was

arrested for a second time, despite protesting his innocence.

After walking free from the magistrates' court at Lisburn, Co. Antrim, where the charges were withdrawn following an action earlier in the Northern Ireland High Court, Mr Duffy expressed his delight at being free - but anger at having been arrested in the first place.

"My reaction is quite plain and simple, obviously I am delighted at being released," he said, adding that once again he had been arrested for something he had not done.

"It is an indictment of the system as a whole, from the RUC right through to the courts. Until this system is changed there isn't going to be any justice in this part of the country."

Mr Duffy claimed that the case against him had been manipulated and he said he felt "a lot of anger and frustration at the system".

He added: "It has taken over three months to get me released. The evidence hasn't changed since the moment I was arrested."

The DPP decided to drop the case against him after the credibility of an unnamed female witness who allegedly wit-

nessed the murders was questioned. Mr Duffy said that he did not feel anger towards the woman, but sympathy. "I know what the RUC are like. I don't blame her for it at the end of the day," he said.

Mr Duffy said that he had been arrested because he was a republican, adding "that's all that is needed".

His solicitor Rosemary Nelson confirmed that she had been instructed to begin civil action over the case.

"This matter has caused the gravest concern in legal circles, amongst international civil rights bodies and public representatives," she said.

Mr Duffy's pregnant wife, Susan, who lives with her eight year old daughter, Catharina, in Lurgan's republican Kilwike estate, said: "Collie is a republican, but that doesn't mean he should be arrested for everything that happens in this town."

Sinn Féin said the release of Mr Duffy confirmed that there had been a concerted and vindictive campaign against him and his family.

The party's northern chairman, Gerry O'hEara, said that people should now be left in no doubt about how corrupt the police and judicial system was.



The defendants (L to R): Philip Bates, Nicholas Oettinger, Ian Barlow, Darren Bartlett, Matthew Tupling, and Andrew Stout

## Rape trial told of woman's distress

A former boyfriend of the barmaid who claims to have been gang-raped by six soldiers yesterday told how she stopped him hunting down the men hours after the alleged assault.

The man, a former boyfriend of the 23-year-old woman, said he became angry when she returned in tears late on the night of 23 May last year to the flat they shared.

He told Oxford Crown Court: "She was red and had clearly been crying. I asked where she had been but she just dashed into the bathroom. I began talking to her friend who was with her but was told she just wanted to be by herself. She then came back into the room and said she was sorry she had been away so long."

"She said she had been drinking with the soldiers and one of them had got rough with her. I was putting two and two together and was getting very angry. I went outside with the intention of going to the barracks but she stopped me."

"It later came out that she had been raped and I wrote down the names that she gave to me. I later gave that paper to the police."

The prosecution alleges that six soldiers took turns to rape the woman after sharing a sauna with her at the Royal Military College of Science, Shrivenham, Oxfordshire.

Capt Philip Bates, 26, of Bordon, Hampshire, Capt Ian Barlow, 29, of North Allerton, North Yorkshire, Lt Darren Bartlett, 24, of Arborfield, Berkshire, Lt Matthew Tupling, 24, of Bordon, Cadet Andrew Stout, 20, of Newcastle upon Tyne, and Cadet Nicholas Oettinger, 20, of Preston, Lancashire, all deny the charge.

The court also heard from the woman's GP, Dr Gavin Bartholomew, whom she consulted two days after the alleged attack. He said: "She was quite distressed by the duration of the incident and she said the sex was very painful. I told her the allegations were serious and it was important to get a forensic examination. But she told me she did not wish to do that or get in touch with the police."

"She had one small bruise on her right thigh but I could not say how old that was ... There was nothing to suggest rough handling of her."

The trial continues.

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Britten's *Henry James* opera 'The Turn of the Screw' was premiered in Venice in 1954. It finally made its Royal Opera debut on Thursday night, as did the production's director, Deborah Warner. So how did the ghosts of Bly take to the Barbican stage?

The kiss which Peter Quint tenderly plants on the forehead of the dying boy Miles in the closing moments of Deborah Warner's new production of Benjamin Britten's *The Turn of the Screw* will of course be mis- construed by those who insist upon trav- elling through the composer's private life in search of contemporary answers to this opera's many questions. To others, it will come as a benediction, a fond but chaste farewell to innocence, to youth, to life and love misspent. Warner has a lot – a whole

BY EDWARD SECKERSON

lot – to answer for. Which is precisely why her production (the Royal Opera's first of this piece) is so intriguing. And compelling. And provocative by virtue of not being provocative. Ambiguous without striving to be. Scary because it's ambigu- ous. Like *Henry James*. Warner doesn't run from the uncomfortable questions that this story poses, nor does she underline or seek to answer them. She torments us with them. And that is scary.

So what are those questions, and why do they unsettle us? What exactly was the relationship between Quint and the previous governess, Miss Jessel? (Remember Michael Winner's film *The Nightcomers*, with its sado-masochistic overtones?) How exactly did Quint "make free" with Miles? (His words, "I'm all things strange and bold", suggest a wild one, a bit of a rebel.) Were Quint and Jessel simply the unacceptable face of permissiveness and promiscuity, robbing their young charges of their innocence, awakening in them the first stirrings of pu- berty? Could be. Such things were not spoken about, let alone flaunted, in the England of James's novella. Better yet, though, is the eerie tale simply a projection of the new Governess's own erotic fantasies? Is she the victim of a powerful infatuation with her employer – the children's unseen guardian? Could be.

In the scene where the Governess is first alone with her new surroundings, lolling about on the lawn, feeling, perhaps, a cer- tain inexplicable "arousal", wishing her em- ployer were there to see how well she was doing, the hint of rapture, the charge of ex- citement in her words (and the way in which Britten sets them as a fragrantly erotic pas- torale) is inescapable. And it's at that mo-



The Quint-essence of innocence? Miles (Edward Burrows) lies dead in the arms of his Governess (Joan Rodgers)

Photo: Laurie Lewis

## Lost souls in a labyrinth of desire

ment that she first sees Quint and believes him to be the children's guardian.

It's a significant case of mistaken iden- tity (or is it?) and Warner goes for it with intent by placing Quint at such close prox- imity to the Governess (not "distant", as pre- scribed, not some fuzzy apparition in one of the house's high towers) that he is at once tangible, real, hers. And you can smell the fear and self-loathing, the guilt. The feel- ing that she, not Quint, is the intruder, the interloper, gives the whole scene, the whole opera, an interesting new perspective, an extra twist, a further turn.

It's the could-bes of this staging that make it so intriguing. The world we enter, a dead, dread space, trees nestling un- comfortably in a concrete, scaffolding-clad shell (set design: Jean Kalman and Tom Pye), appears like some sort of halfway house between this world and the next. The

tall, thin, louche figure (an ethereal Ian Bos- tridge) who silently makes his way through the darkness, from a door upstage to the incongruous grand piano downstage, be- longs here. Indeed, it is as if the real "vis- itors" to this story are the living, not the dead, come to confront their fears, their prej- udices, their desires. So the "ghosts" move freely, casually, through this environment, shadowing, "parenting" the children (whose own sense of reality is unhindered) while their protectors look on. Quint is no longer just a shadowy figure, but in the room with the Governess, vindictively knocking over a vase of flowers in order to make his pres- ence, his displeasure, felt. He helps make up Miles's bed, for heaven's sake.

He is sung – wonderfully and with im- maculate diction – by Ian Bostridge, who succeeds in making Britten's aching melis- mas (free and adventurous as Quint is wont

to be) at once beautiful and subversive (all those near-quarter-tones). Physically, he is an adornment, draping himself around the production.

In Vivian Tierney, we have a singer and a performance almost too good, too intense, for the underwritten role of Miss Jessel: in Jane Henschel, the kindly, well-mean- ing but stupefyingly straight-laced Mrs Grose assumes almost Wagnerian prop- orts – a thrilling amplitude. Joan Rodgers is the Governess, trapped in her labyrinth, unable to keep a handle on her authority, and singing (splendidly) on the edge of an ecstasy she cannot, dare not, reveal. The children – Pippa Woodrow (10) and Edward Burrows (12) – are terrific. Flora spinning deliciously out of control in a perpetual flurry of curtsies and cart- wheels, Miles not at all "bad", just grow- ing up too soon.

The real miracle of Britten's master- piece, though, is in the resourcefulness, the atmosphere, the shifting subtexts of the instrumental writing. Clarity and ambiguity co-exist in his tiny orchestra. You could take away the voices, you could take away My- fanwy Piper's sometimes preposterously fanciful text, and still keep *Henry James* alive. With Colin Davis at the helm you cer- tainly could.

But Warner takes us still further into this psychological labyrinth. She turns a huge, uninviting space into a small, dark recess somewhere at the back of the imagination. With a little help from lighting designer Jean Kalman, the shadows are suffocating. Further performances: tonight, Mon, Wed, Thu and Sat 11 Oct, 7.45pm, Barbican Theatre, London EC2 (booking: 0171-304 4000). Broadcast live on BBC Radio 3 next Saturday

## A WEEK IN THE ARTS

DAVID LISTER

Nicholas Serota, director of the Tate, has prepared a time-capsule to bury in the foundations of the new Tate Gallery of Modern Art at Bankside. The ceremony will be attended by Chris Smith, Secretary of State for Culture, next Tuesday.

Maggi Hambling has designed a brooch for the capsule, which will also contain Paula Rego tiles and a David Hockney poster. It will even have a piece of Swiss mountain crystal chosen by the architects to bring "good karma" to the building. Even more mystifying to future generations (and visiting Martians) will be Mr Serota's fountain pen. But perhaps they will see what we may not: that this is the pen that signed the sponsorship deal for the Turner Prize and signalled the rise of installation art over painting. It is a piece of conceptualism all by itself.

The autobiography of the late Sir Georg Solti has been rushed out following the conductor's death last month. It is described as "candid". But, for the most candid revelations, we may have to wait for the out- takes. As publishers Chatto admit: "He was much more candid about his love life originally. But he, his wife Valerie and the editor read the proofs and took some pieces out."

The musical vignettes, however, remain intact. Solti recalls how he once asked Stravinsky why he had changed the orchestration and simplified the score of *The Rite of Spring* 30 years after it was first published. Igor candidly replied: "Because I couldn't conduct the original – it was too difficult for me."



Solti also met Sybil, Marchioness of Cholmondeley, who'd been at the 1913 Paris premiere of *The Rite* – a real riot, by her account: "Such fun! We jumped on stage and attacked the dancers with our umbrellas." An excellent means of heckling – demonstrative and painful, yet refined in the classical manner.

## Thoroughly monotonous Maddie

The makers of *Maddie* – not to mention a certain daily paper whose readers stumped up the £150,000 to bring it into town – evidently think that it's our pa- triotic duty to love this show. A Brit team, you see, hasn't had a musical in the West End since *Sunset Boulevard*. So, nothing loath, I wrapped myself in the flag and virtually threw myself at the stage in the effort to oblige. Trouble was, I kept meet- ing myself coming back wearing a slightly stricken expression.

Penning by Shaun McKenna and Steven Keeling, *Maddie* is set in San Francisco and tells the story of a peroxide Twenties star- let who was killed en route to a Hollywood screen-test and who, 50 odd years later, comes back to invade the body of another woman. This latter and her museum curator husband (Gra- ham Bickley) have just moved into Maddie's old apartment, where, to make a dodgy mar- riage worse, hubby develops an

obsession with the dead woman. It's a rum thing: a musical about a body with two identities that has no identity of its own. You keep being reminded of everything from *Blithe Spirit* to *On a Clear Day You Can See For- ever*. Nothing will ever remind you of *Maddie*. An unnerving physical cross between Bette Midler and Maureen Lipman, Summer Rognie shifts, with rapacious vigour, to and fro be- tween the unhappy wife and the raunchy teeth 'n' thigh-baring

Maddie – but the script gives her nothing to disguise the fact that both gals are bodes to the core. Inevitably, *Maddie* has one of those hollering "This Time It's ME!" Act 1 curtain-numbers – and when Ms Rognie decides to sell a song, you buy it, or else. Inevitably, too, relations be- tween the two differently un- fulfilled women settles down to one of soggy sisterdom. When, by accident, Maddie invades an- other body – that of a superan- tuated predatory scorpion (played

by Lynda Baron as a reprise of the Mae West she did at South- ampton) – the comic potential is under-explored in favour of a song in which Maddie tells the wife that, in seducing her hus- band, she's really done her a favour: now she *knows* she has to work on that marriage...

The husband is a case-study in himself: the idea of making love to a strange woman who is using your wife's body as a ve- hicle makes outright infidelity seem quite a moral business by

comparison. The show doesn't make nearly enough of the tragi-comic creepiness of this idea. In fact the whole shebang has a depressingly ersatz feel. It tots up the sum of its influences and arrives at the wrong num- ber. For the most part, it's not what possesses its heroine that preoccupies you, but whatever possessed anyone to put it on. Lyric Theatre, Shaftesbury Ave, London W1 (0171-494 5045)

Paul Taylor



Maddie: a thigh-flashing bore

Photograph: Robbie Jack

## THE WEEK IN REVIEW ADRIAN TURPIN

### THE FILM

#### Volcano

This year's second volcanic disaster movie lays waste to L.A. The fact that there isn't a volcano anywhere nearby hasn't deterred the scriptwriters: lava gushes from between the city's shifting tectonic plates. Tommy Lee Jones plays the crisis manager who has to deal with this geological novelty. Expat Brit Mick "The Bodyguard" Jackson directs. On general release.

Not a complete disaster, thought Adam Mars-Jones, even if it is haphazardly con- structed. "The humour works best when it isn't spelled out," he concluded, "the build- ing of the American Lung Foundation, for instance, wreathed in smoke". The *Telegraph* admired Jones's blend of heroism without narcissism. "If an actor can walk through a film without stretching himself and still be magnificent, he does so." "Many film- makers have used L.A.'s geological instability as a metaphor for moral uncertainty," mused *The Guardian*. Not here. *Volcano* "settles for a one-dimensional view of the most significant city of our time".

Nothing to get in a lava about, although it's always good to watch Tommy Lee Jones ham- ming it up.



### THE PLAY

#### The Invention of Love

Richard Eyre bows out from the National by directing Tom Stoppard's new play. *The Invention of Love* deals with the poet AE Housman's unrequited desire for his Oxford contemporary Moses Jackson. Old Hous- man meets his younger self, Oscar Wilde fills by, and Stoppard's familiar preoccupations with language and memory abound. In rep at the National Theatre, 0171-928 2252.

Paul Taylor was bowled over: "I have prob- ably made this work seem less witty and di- abolically clever than it is," he concluded. "But it was the emotion that got me." Like most of the critics, he praised John Wood's performance as old Housman. The meet- ing between old and young Housman was "almost unbearably moving". The *Financial Times* agreed: "Some of the finest, most passionate, and most disarmingly brilliant dramatic writing that Stoppard has given us," it raved. But *The Guardian* was less sure: "Stoppard at his best and worst. The Latin learning is laid on with a trowel. At the same time the jokes are very funny."

We expect Stoppard to ap- peal to the head, but here he conquers the heart as well. A triumph.



### THE CONCERT

#### Bob Dylan

Bob Dylan's British appearances were can- celled earlier this year after he collapsed with a heart complaint. But you can't keep a rock legend down. He began the week by play- ing in front of the Pope, before kicking off his UK tour in Bournemouth. After enduring years of shambolic, rambling, mutter-filled gigs, his fans were hoping for a renaissance. *Playing Wembley tomorrow* (0181-900 1234).

"He disappointed in giving us what he thought we wanted," complained Nick Has- ted. "Singing some of his finest work, he seemed uninterested in its meaning". Not so, argued *The Guardian*: "Dylan seems to have rediscovered the notion of melody, and was making sincere efforts to sing and not croak... we had better make the most of this new, super-charged Dylan, because it may not last." "I never realised that a Bob Dylan concert could be such fun," enthused *The Telegraph*, even if the singer did sound at times "like a camel with a frog in its throat". Live- ly stuff, agreed *The Times*. "Drawing the pen- sion is clearly the last thing on his mind".

Nice to find him putting a bit of effort in for once, even if it is strange to see rock's great miserabilist looking so cheery.



## THE WEEK ON RADIO ROBERT HANKS

### The great history mystery unexplained

"The past is difficult," stated the protagon- ist of *The House of Doctor Dee* (Radio 4, Monday) at one point. A witty remark, not especially well put, but at least it's un- arguable. The past is the one foreign coun- try we can never hope to visit; we must construct our picture of it using unreliable and often contradictory information, most- ly gleaned from guidebooks written by peo- ple who have never been there – or, at best, have a confused recollection of its fringes.

Oddly, though, and also a little an- noyingly, *The House of Doctor Dee* was con- structed around the opposite view: here, time is an illusion, the centuries reach out to one another, and the past turns out to be about as difficult as a trip down to the newsagent's – just as in a number of Peter Ackroyd's other yarns. This is mostly, I sup- pose, because he has some firm convictions about the circularity of time and the possi- bility of an ongoing relationship with the past. But, at times, it does feel as if what drives his fiction is not so much conviction as convention, when he seems to be stuck inside a genre just as firmly as Barbara Cartland or Agatha Christie. It's just that his genre – the time-bending, mystical, Lon- don novel – is a little more unusual.

In this case, the plot revolves around a house in Clerkenwell that was once the property of the Elizabethan magus John Dee, and in our own time has passed to young Matthew Palmer. As the story pro-

gresses, it emerges that Matthew is a founding, and that his late father believed him to be a magical homunculus created by Dee and fated to die and be reborn every 30 years. Over the centuries, the homun- culus has been instrumental in, among oth- er things, nurturing the careers of Isaac Newton and Charles Babbage, as well as working on radar during the Second World War. Meanwhile, back in the past, Dr Dee discovers his friend and fellow magician, Kelly, to be a fraud and a traitor. Matthew concludes he is not a homunculus; and he and Dee speak to one another across time, declaring the hope that, through "vision and imagination", they can dissolve the illusion of the reality of time, and London will be- come "the mystical city universal".

A nakedly silly story, in Alan Drury's dramatisation veiled with wisps of mean- ing. If Claire Grove's production had punc- tuated the pomposity, offered some faint sense of irony, it would have been easier to respect it; as it was, she took it all with a very straight face, which probably made it more enjoyable. In fact, it was huge fun, but for all the wrong reasons.

Sill, even when Ackroyd plays fast and loose with time and history, he writes with the understanding that they are problem- atic. *The Cuban Crisis* (Radio 2, Tuesday) – marking the 35th anniversary of the US blockade of Cuba – was one of those frus- trating programmes which seems to think

that a sense of period can be faked up with a bit of old newsreel, vox pops and a couple of hit records. The narrative was streamlined enough, but a recital of events was insufficient to conjure up the atmos- phere of apocalyptic paranoia that the script seemed to aim for. A wider view might have helped; as it was, the listener was left with a sense of impending nuclear catastrophe as something quaint and provincial that our parents experienced in the early Sixties.

A profounder understanding of the dif- ficulties of untangling the past lay behind *What Are They Looking At?* (Radio 3, Sun- day). Piers Plowright's feature, one of his last before he retires from the BBC, was gentle, thoughtful and playful – an exam- ination of the many things that Jan Van Eyck's *The Arnolfini Marriage* might mean. The picture's many ambiguities (most fa- mously: is she pregnant?) were presented from the point of view of experts and mem- bers of the public, with interpolations from the painter himself.

The tone was perpetually questioning, even good-naturedly badgering, until the very end when, disappointingly, it settled on an answer: that what the picture shows, unambiguously, is the traces of its own mak- ing, both the circumstances in which it was painted and the character of the artist. An answer that's no answer; it would have been better to leave the question hanging.

In the Eye on Monday: Jasper Rees meets Andrew Motion, friend of Larkin, biographer of Keats. Plus Martin's 'Julietta' reviewed





## Great scoop, Mr Morton, but the timing is a little indecent



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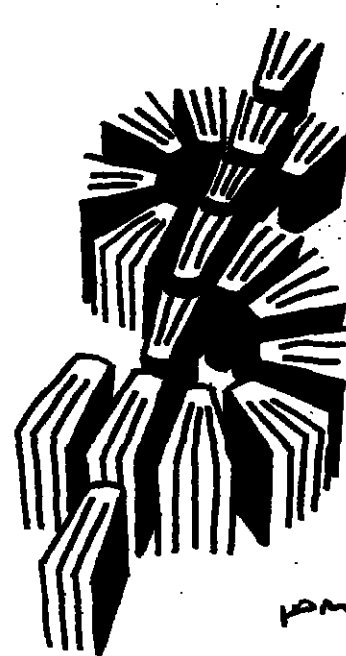
Was Andrew Morton right to have fingered his subject as the source, indeed part-author, of *Diana: Her True Story*? The eager buyers in the bookshops yesterday seemed glad enough to part with their money, but Mr Morton was given a roasting by the tabloid papers for "the final insult" to the People's Princess. Much of this amounted to brazen hypocrisy, condemning Mr Morton on page 1, with full details of his revelations on pages 5, 6, 7, 8 and 9.

But there is a serious issue of principle here. If journalists are given information in confidence, are they entitled to break that confidence if their source dies? The answer must be, unequivocally, yes. Diana's role in making her story public cannot be taken to her grave. If in five years' time a historian sought to tell the story of the modern royal family, and interviewed Mr Morton, he would have been quite wrong to continue to conceal her involvement with his book. The sense of unease arises because he has chosen to unlock his secret files barely a month after her death. But to say that Diana would have wanted her part in her public relations operation kept secret, and that her wishes should be respected, is to confuse a matter of taste with one of principle.

The law of confidence, like the law of libel, should surely not be enforceable after death. People can try to preserve family secrets after they die, but they cannot rely on it, especially if they have used a journalist to reveal them - at arm's length - while they were alive, as part of a campaign to influence public opinion.

Mr Morton would have been wise to resist pressure from his publishers for a few months, because people in their present mood of reverence for Diana are properly and understandably offended. He could certainly have afforded to hold off - his book has already made him rich.

There is something unseemly, too, in his selling the tapes of Diana's interviews-by-proxy which she recorded for his book. Splashing them across an American gossip-sheet is no way to show respect to the recently departed. The timing and method of publication are indecent; but publishing them at some time, in some way, would not have been wrong. On the contrary, it would be quite wrong to suppress the contents of the tapes, in the long run. Diana's estate may well be entitled to argue in law about where the proceeds from the sale of her words should go, but it should not be allowed to prevent their publication.



We see the personal effects of famous or public figures sold to the highest bidder all the time. Was it wrong to sell John Lennon's letter to his first wife, an intensely

private correspondence which touches on the sensibilities of the living, namely their son Julian? The publication of personal letters and recollections of countless literary figures has caused distress to people who are still alive.

Measured against these examples, the capacity of Mr Morton's revelations to hurt those who were close to Diana is muted. We already knew that she had effectively authorised the book. Mr Morton has merely demonstrated that her approval went a lot further than being merely tacit: it was utterly explicit. But the fact that she was involved in some way was made plain by the Princess herself when the book was published, and the certainty that it was indeed her true story grew as time passed.

The new element introduced by the publishers is the addition "In Her Own Words" to the cover of the new edition. We have discovered that much of the book was effectively dictated by her, and that the proofs were corrected in her handwriting. This is of significant historical interest. It is not merely part of the soap opera of the royal family, it is part of the history of this country's rapidly-changing constitution. As keeper of a personal secret, Mr Morton should have waited for

a proper interval. But he is in possession of history, which we have a right to know.

Indeed, the revelations confirm Mr Morton as an outstanding journalist. He scores no marks for humility, claiming yesterday that his was the "scoop of the century". Like many good journalists, he can be lambasted for a certain arrogance, as well as patent insensitivity. But he deserves our admiration for having dug out a great story and told it well. No Kitty Kelly he. He did not rush to print second-hand rumour in place of primary sources. He did not traipse around people who had once shaken hands with the protagonists re-telling what "some say" and "others speculate". He got the story copper-bottomed, and we can now see quite how thoroughly it was nailed into place: we can also see why, after enduring a blizzard of establishment rubbish (the fate of many excellent and accurate scoops) his book has stood the test of time. So much of the story was so extraordinary at the time that it was easy to disbelieve it. But it was true, and now we know just how true. So, this week's revelations mark Mr Morton's ultimate vindication as a story-getter. If only they had come next year. History could have waited a while.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Corporate killers

Sir: You report (2 October) on proposals to introduce a new offence of corporate killing.

Until a few years ago serious railway accidents were followed within a few days by an internal inquiry and within a few weeks by a public inquiry taken by an inspecting officer of railways. There were no lawyers present, witnesses were invariably open and the whole process was focused on finding the cause and recommending any necessary improvements. Prosecutions were rare.

The process has changed out of all recognition. The police seek to prosecute, encouraged by the media seeking scapegoats. Once a prosecution is under way the investigative process is delayed and complicated by witnesses seeking to defend themselves or their employers from legal retribution. Meanwhile the daily death toll on the roads exceeds that of the Southall rail crash.

A rail crash at Watford on 8 August 1996 will not come before the courts until April 1998. Until the criminal processes are completed the public debate about causes and remedies cannot take place. Under previous procedures inquiries would have been completed and any recommendations could be in course of implementation. The defensive culture surrounding railway accidents serves as a platform for politicians and provides an income for lawyers. It does nothing to illuminate the causes or speed the implementation of remedial action.

Professor W P BRADSHAW  
Senior Visiting Research Fellow  
Centre for Socio-Legal Studies  
University of Oxford

Sir: The introduction of a new offence of "corporate killing" in response to industrial disasters would remove part of the responsibility of the individual for acting safely and with excellence. Each individual would be protected by their corporate umbrella.

Instead of encouraging company directors to scrutinise the actions of each employee lest their mistakes lead to that director being held responsible, we should be encouraging greater empowerment of the individual to, for example, stop the entire production line if a quality defect is suspected. Instead of making the corporate collective responsible for the individual employee, we should be trying to increase individual accountability.

SIMON BUCKINGHAM  
Newbury, Berkshire

Sir: They've been making a corporate killing for the last 18 years, so it seems only reasonable that they should now be charged for it.

BRIAN GASCOIGNE  
London NW3

### M15 to tell all?

Sir: Further to my previous letter on M15's historical files (10 September), the plot thickens. When I recently asked the Public Record Office's Reader Services Department to comment on rumours of an imminent release of M15 files they denied all knowledge. Others have apparently been told by Reader Services that M15 material from the First World War is to be released "in the near future" but that no further information is available.

I have gleaned more details by talking (off the record) to a PRO official in another department. I understand that M15's in-house history covering the First World War, some fifty volumes, will be released into the PRO in mid-November and that a BBC *Timewatch* documentary based on this is being prepared. Next year we can expect to see M15 material from the Second World War and then from the inter-war period.

However, my source described the whole exercise as a "sop", warning that the files to be released will reveal little of M15's real history.

Would the PRO care to tell us, on the record, what exactly is going on?  
DAVID TURNER  
History Department  
Christ Church College  
Canterbury, Kent

### Single parents

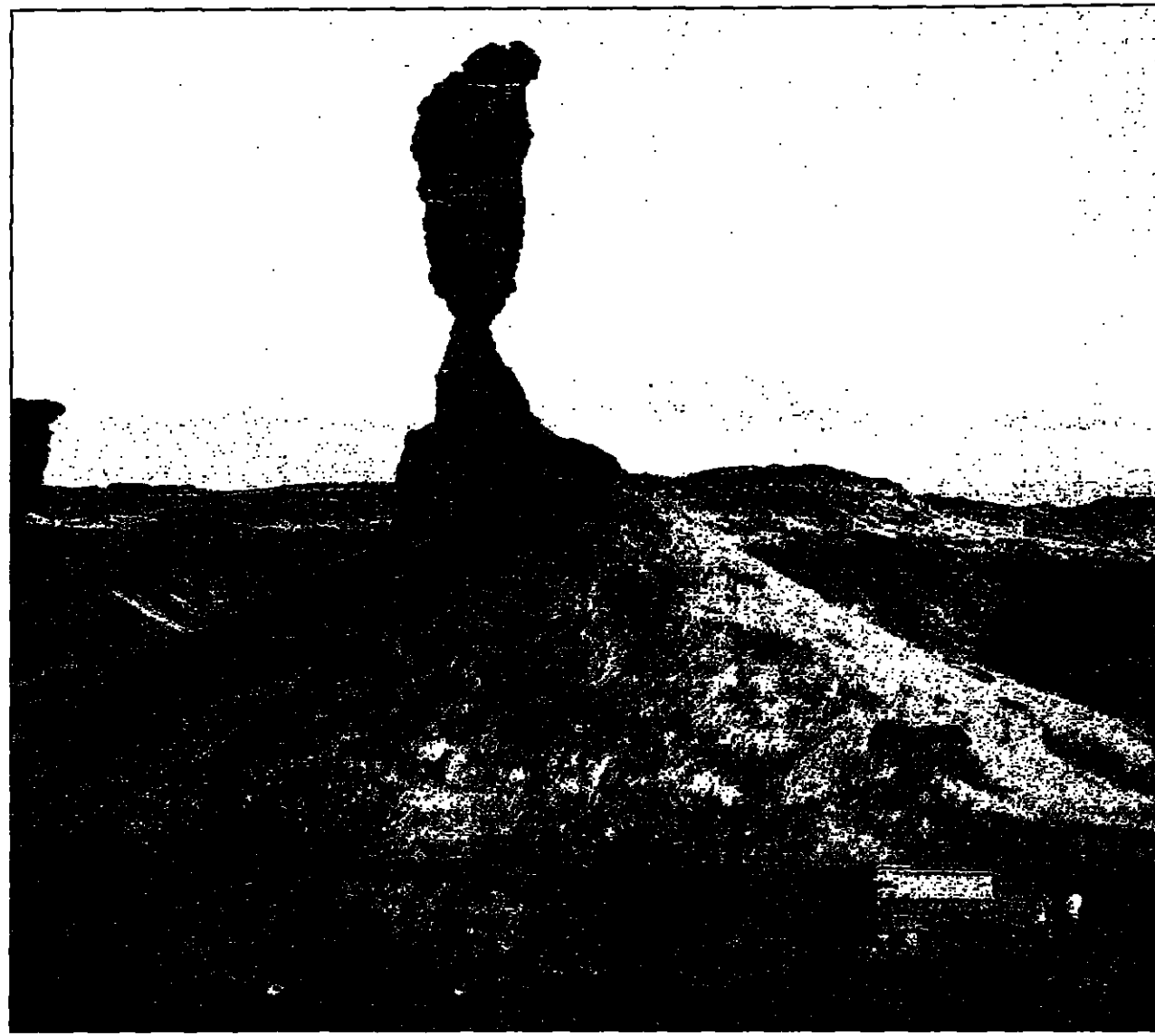
Sir: As a long-time single parent, it is with both fear and anger that I read of recommendations by this or that "think-tank" to "get tough on single mothers" and prevent us from "slipping into a dependency mentality" (report 29 September).

Do people not understand that life for single parents is already tough and that a mother, or, indeed any parent or guardian "with care", is already doing a job? We are no more "dependent" on society than any other worker. We often cannot manage a second job.

Who are the people who make such recommendations? None of them, I believe, a mother who has had to survive for years on end on the breadline because the day nurseries have closed down, the co-parent takes little or no responsibility and the available work is so badly paid the money will not stretch to pay for the rent, the food, the clothes and the child-minding.

Single parents are being scapegoated for failings in the market economy. Technology has put millions out of work. Factories have moved to the other side of the world where people more desperate than us will work for less. To "solve" the problem by imposing ever-increasing hardships upon a section of the population who are already struggling is nastiness in the extreme.

It is we mothers, single or



Rock legend: the 'Finger of God', the dramatic Mukorob formation in Namibia

MSI

### Fathers of geology

Sir: This year represents, for scientists, an important double bicentenary - of the death of James Hutton and of the birth of Charles Lyell. These two men, both of them Scots, were the principal founders of the science of geology. At the time of their work, the formation of rocks was considered by some to be a product of great floods or other major terrestrial catastrophes, a consequence of the direct will of God. It was these two who turned wild speculation into good science.

James Hutton (1726-1797)

was the first properly to recognise the influence of subterranean heat in the formation of rocks and in their uplift to form land-masses and mountain ranges. These were processes of which he saw "no vestiges of a beginning and no prospect of an end", thus appreciating the great length of geologic time.

Charles Lyell (1797-1875) perceived that, to understand how such rocks as limestones, shales and sandstones formed, it was necessary only to observe the processes in operation in the world around us - the processes of erosion and of sediment ac-

cumulation in lakes, rivers and seas. "The present," he affirmed, "is the key to the past." It was through reading Lyell that Charles Darwin gained the understanding of our world that culminated in his great work *On the Origin of Species*.

Hutton and Lyell, then, were among the greatest pioneers of the earth sciences. At meetings held in England and Scotland this summer, scientists and historians from many countries assembled to commemorate their achievements. Yet, when approaches were made to the British Post Office for the issuing of stamps to

mark the double bicentenary, the request was rejected, despite the potential for dramatic and appealing designs that such stamps would have offered.

Instead, the British Post Office has issued a whole set of stamps commemorating Enid Blyton. So it seems Britain is prouder of such a writer than of two world-renowned scientists. Indeed, our values are changing. Professor WILLIAM A S SERJEANT  
Department of Geological Sciences  
University of Saskatchewan  
Saskatoon, Canada

### Power of prayer

Sir: Brian R Moore (letter, 2 October) objects that Tony Blair "seems to use his religion to claim the moral high ground". Mr Blair's politics have very much relevance to his beliefs.

It has been said that the poli-

### Channel 5 deal

Sir: The headline over Cathy Newman's report "Channel 5 may sell digital capacity" (30 September) was misleading. All that Channel 5 is doing is discussing with a number of po-

tential broadcast partners the most cost-effective way of using our allocated capacity when digital terrestrial television launches.

It is, of course, our analogue service which is most crucial to our viewers, and we do not wish to divert scarce resources to solo digital ventures if there are well-funded partners willing to join us in putting our digital capacity to optimum use.

DAVID ELSTEIN  
Chief Executive  
Channel 5 Broadcasting  
London WC2

Easy tax forms

Sir: I cannot understand why so many people are apparently having difficulties with their new self-assessment tax returns.

I found mine perfectly

straightforward, and the accompanying guides explained the necessary procedures in simple English.

I suspect that the widespread reluctance to address this issue has more to do with the fear of detection of past and present tax evasion than a question of "form phobia".

MARK BLACKMAN  
London SE5

### Try again

Sir: Instead of worrying about resetting our computers to cope with the new millennium, perhaps we should reset our calendars to the year 1900 instead.

Then we could have a second chance at the 20th century, or perhaps make a better go of it.

SEAN WOODS  
London SW12

## LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

A quiet word to those readers whose complaint about the new paper is that I am trying to "pad it out" with adverts. All editors dream of pages clear of advertising, but you, the reader, would be paying £1 or £1.50 for your paper if we didn't have the adverts.

We have an agreed news-to-advertisement ratio, which has not changed since we started. There is, however, a constant quiet struggle about the placing and shape of ads, and it is part of my job to resist the most disruptive ideas. Some US papers have page after page of supermarket ads with only the tiniest sliver of grey text at the top of them. In Britain, we have resisted that.

Another example: some companies would like to have "watermark" ads across news stories and, again, they have been resisted. The line between carrying commercial space and allowing other organisations to sponsor news or views is a fine one - look at what is happening on commercial TV too - and constantly under threat of being trampled. But it is essential and, I promise, heavily policed.

A more substantial question, raised tangentially by some readers, is simply: "what is news?" It might seem absurd for the editor of a newspaper to even raise this with readers, but there are good reasons for doing so. There has been what one might call "the old news agenda" for broadsheets, which was essentially politics-plus-politics and diplomacy-plus-diplomacy, with business and sports results on the back. Even now, we are still a little old-fashioned in that way. But My Researches (I put them in capitals to make them seem more impressive) suggest that very large numbers of people are increasingly turned off by that agenda. They are more interested in,

for instance, science, health, the environment, culture, technology and the higher end of consumerism. I think they are at least partly right.

Power has shifted. The power to change our lives has migrated, at least a bit, from officialdom to company-directors, inventors, pressure groups, doctors, marketing gurus and so on. The richer you are, the more true it is. For an average middle-class broadsheet reader in 1948 or 1958, longevity and earning-power were clearly related to what happened at Westminster: the NHS and various industrial deals were populist, bread-and-butter issues. Nowadays, personal health questions are as much about the latest information on diet, exercise, new therapies, stress, and environmental pollution.

Similarly, employability isn't settled by government departments but depends on company strategies, niches in markets, training (much of it private) and consumer trends. Why, therefore, should it follow that stories about health, or the growth in supermarket banking, or air quality, are somehow considered "soft", while the latest analysis of a split in the Chinese Communist Party, or what one Tory MP told another in the lobby, is "hard", meaning serious and worthwhile. What is going on here?

I believe there is a new agenda which will partly replace the old one and which offers serious journalism the way forward. But what do you think? I've said before that I read all the letters back about these things. Quite a lot of readers' criticisms and suggestions about the new paper have been taken on board and will be adopted. But on this much bigger question, I'd very much like to hear your views.

Andrew Marr

## QUOTE UNQUOTE

Russia has had a political and economic revolution. Now it's time for glasnost in the bedroom - Yelena Hanga, presenter of a new Russian TV show promoting the glories of sex.

We are two quite boring people. We are from working-class stock, and we just earn a living and spend it - Leo Beckett, husband of the *Trade and Industry Secretary*, Margaret Beckett. There are many conversations we filmed on location that hit the cutting-room floor for fear of public outcry - Patricia Llewellyn, producer of a TV programme about the *Two Fat Ladies* cooking experts.

A thing I noticed about the models was the horrible expression on their faces: a thin-lipped, narrow-eyed look of hostility... that tells you that if your eyes meet a broken glass will be pushed into your face - Dr Anthony Daniels, social commentator, on visiting a fashion show.

I know I have a difficult job but I wouldn't want yours - John Major's reported remark, when prime minister, to Charles Lewington, then Tory spin-doctor.

I think it is a bit early to identify my successor - William Hague. It's not nice kicking a man when he's down. But it's safer - Tony Banks, Sports Minister, on Peter Mandelson, who failed to be elected to Labour's National Executive.

It always makes me laugh when people ask why anyone would want to do a sitcom in America. If it runs five years, you never have to work again - Twiggy, former model, now 48.



## Tell-tale signs of the adulterer: is it all a load of gonads?



DAVID  
AARONOVITCH  
LOVE CHEATS

Imagine for a moment that you are Mrs Kylie Kerr of Newton Abbott in the county of Devon. It is a summer's morning, and among your day's chores is that of picking up the laundry from the dry-cleaners. There are, maybe, a blouse or two, possibly a skirt, and a suit belonging to your 41-year-old husband, Don. You hand your little green ticket over the counter, and the shop assistant goes off and rattles hangers somewhere in the back. A minute passes, and she returns with the clothes – and with something else: two gold ear-rings with coloured edges, found (she tells you) in Don's trousers pocket. They are not yours.

Now it's time to change sex and become Don himself. In the warm evening of the same day, you arrive home from the music shop that you run, and immediately sense a certain domestic *froidure*. The dog is quiet, the cat subdued, the radio is tuned to your least favourite station. All is explained when your wife Kylie produces – from behind her back – a strange pair of ear-rings, and holds them accusingly out to you, in the palm of one hand. These, she informs you, were found in your trousers. And you are lost for words, for you have never, ever seen them before.

Let us step outside Don, and contemplate his plight from the comfort of our own bodies. He is guileless. It is unlikely that he has had an absent-minded affair with a woman and then pocketed her ear-rings, all without noticing. But his protestations of innocence sound no different to those of the guilty man lying. Can he prove that he hasn't been having it off with a daisy?

You can see the difficulty. There are only two ways that he can empirically convince the world that he is guileless (yes, the world, for though Kylie accepts his innocence, Newton Abbott is abuzz with the story). The first is to show that it is impossible for him to have committed the crime. The second is for the owner of the ear-rings to come forward and claim them.

Both are tall orders. How can you, after all, prove a negative? There is nobody for you to say that you were never with, for nobody exists. And nobody may ever admit that the ear-rings were theirs – or even know that they were lost. It is everybody's

nightmare.

In Don's case, the nightmare has been short-lived. The dry-cleaners have admitted that they made an error, and the unfortunate husband has been absolved. But he might just as easily have fallen victim to an obstinate refusal to admit a mistake. And then what would he have done?

Don may be this week's story, but twice in the past month respected periodicals have printed articles suggesting that there are ways – short of discovery *en flagrant* – to tell if your spouse is betraying the marital bed. Or, indeed, is likely to.

The first, which appeared in a number of august journals – including the *Daily Mail* – detailed the work of Dr David Buss, an American sociologist who interviewed 107 couples together and separately. He correlated their answers with the incidence of adultery, and concluded that there was a personality profile of the adulterer. Based on this profile (it was claimed), one should be able to discern from other behaviour whether one's partner was likely to stray.

In fact, one might be able to tell simply from going out to dinner. For signs would include arriving late, looking in the hall mirror, interrupting others, going to the loo and leaving the door open, and – most revealing of all – driving past squashed animals and laughing callously.

Clearly, such information is double-edged. Should another man find himself in Don's position, he might be saved from suspicion because he exhibited none of these tendencies. Were he punctual, tactful, discreet and – when driving – sentimental, he would clearly fail to meet the personality profile.

So far, so good. But suppose that you were entirely innocent of wrongdoing, yet – one dark night – giggled at a joke that you'd heard some hours before, just as you passed a flattened badger? Your wife or husband (an avid *Mail* reader) slams on the brakes, screeches to a halt, turns to you and snarls, "Who is it? I know you're having an affair!" Very nasty. But not, I'm afraid, as bad as it can get.

This newspaper itself revealed last month that – I quote – "it is a matter of scientific fact that promiscuous men have larger testicles". This is (let me add hastily) a cause, not an effect. Anyway, 80 Manchester University students – my *alma mater* – allowed a zoologist, Dr Robin Baker, to measure the volume of their gonads, using a pair of calipers (warm, I hope; in my day student grants were large enough to spare us the necessity of submitting ourselves to such examinations).

Baker's largest gonad was 52 cubic centimetres, the smallest just 8 – and the average 24. Then he set testicle size against sexual behaviour and discovered a clear correlation: the chaps with bigger balls were more likely to use them.

It isn't clear why. I suppose it may be because larger genitals are more obtrusive, and thus assert themselves over the personality of the owner. Or perhaps the greater amount of sperm-making activity somehow impels the testicle-owner into primal, instinctual sperm-losing frenzies. Whatever. My point in all this is not to explain the theory, but to share a concern. It is, after all, possible for a man to shun dry-cleaners and thus never find himself having to explain errant ear-rings. He can also avoid mirrors, never interrupt party guests, and force himself to weep over squashed hedgehogs. But what, oh gentle reader, is a chap to do if his testicles are too big?



Be a sport: Peter Sutherland, chairman of Goldman Sachs, puts his all into a charity project with south London schoolchildren this week

## A sporting chance for volunteers

If you're at a loose end this weekend there is plenty of work to do. The problem is, you won't get paid for it. Week by week, 23 million Britons turn out to do voluntary work or raise funds for charities, to help at youth clubs and old people's homes, to sit on public bodies, to comfort the sick and dying. That's more people than are in paid employment; and though, for many, it is rewarding in itself, the work offers little by way of recompense.

This is Giving Britain at its best. However, the announcement that the chairman of the Arts Council will stand down next year to spend more time with his business partners has raised a crucial question: should the boss of an outfit that shells out some half a billion pounds of public money each year be paid to do the job properly?

Lord Gowrie is the epitome of all that is good about public service in Britain: urbane, intelligent, cultivated, community minded and decent. As a recent recruit to the Arts Council, I can vouch for the huge amount of time that he and its other members spend on the arts business. Yet he, like many others in his position, does the job without pay, and seemingly without strain; despite his Irish peerage, he almost defines the 19th-century English expression "languid". When first coined, this was not meant at the time to suggest laziness or indolence, but that a person was talented enough to perform well without apparent effort. The same might have been said about David Gower's batting or Muhammad Ali's boxing.

Yet even Gowrie, for all his talents, apparently has to make a living. For most of the 23 million who give their time for free, there is a cost. It may be in time spent away from work or family; it almost certainly involves taking care of money donated directly by the public or the Treasury. And here is the difference to the old days of old-style philanthropy. There is big money involved here.

Charities represent some 3 per cent of our GDP; they employ some 450,000 people, fully 2 per cent of the national workforce. They are part of our national fabric, and, along with the mushrooming growth of quangos, have provided an outlet for the British mania for do-gooding of all kinds. This is not new; it stretches back through the centuries. But in the past it has been possible to characterise this kind of voluntary activity as faintly ridiculous and irrelevant – even a bit potty.

In *Bleak House*, Dickens' Mrs Jellyby, a "rapacious benevolent", could have landed you picking coffee beans on the banks of the Niger at Borrioboola-Gha if you weren't careful. But as well as fear, such people inspire cynicism. Mrs Jellyby was "a lady of remarkable strength of character who devoted herself entirely to the public. She has devoted herself to an extensive variety of public subjects at various times and is at present devoted to the subject of Africa – until something else attracts her..."

However, the massive growth of the so-called "third sector" – the others being the public and private sector – has



TREVOR  
PHILLIPS  
THE 'THIRD  
SECTOR'

made all such sneering seem irrelevant. Vast areas of public expenditure are in the hands of gifted (and not-so-gifted) amateurs. The appointments to NHS Trusts are a case in point. The dispensation of billions of pounds of taxpayers' cash, the employment of hundreds of thousands of people and the health of the nation rest in the hands of a few hundred non-professionals. Even more spectacularly, the tens of billions raised by the Lottery will, in theory, be in the hands of the voluntary bodies that run the Sports Council, Arts Council and so forth; by my reckoning over the next three or four years each quango member will give away an average of nearly £100m.

Do we really want to give this kind of power to Mrs Jellyby? Actually, yes; the great virtue of this way of working is that it disperses power away from the iron grip of national government, and potentially weakens the baleful influence of party politics on these great areas of policy. And

not all those who currently give their time are Mrs Jellybys – many that I've worked with are talented individuals with a conscience and time to spare. Yet, typically, those who run quangos and big charities are male, white, and elderly. Where they are not, it is because they are independently wealthy, or women with husbands able to free them from the need to work.

Being the chairman of a quango, The London Arts Board, currently trying to find suitable new members, I can say how hard it is to find people who don't just feel like "more of the same". Few of us in the midst of careers have the opportunity to serve, however much we would like to; still fewer who are not well-off can even consider giving the time. Even those of us with decent jobs can expect a raised eyebrow from hard-pressed colleagues when we leave early to attend a meeting that is nothing to with the business. The range of public services provided by the third sector is now too great either to privatise or nationalise; so how do we make it work?

Some companies, recognising that the experience of helping to run a voluntary organisation adds to the ability of their employees take a

relaxed attitude to time spent in such activities; a few even encourage it. But sooner or later someone is going to make a hard choice.

To do the job properly, the value of such activity will have to be recognised by the Chancellor. He could consider tax breaks for companies which give their employees time off for voluntary activity. He could find ways of providing career breaks to run charities or arts organisations possible. He could even think about offering extra incentives for the long-term unemployed to take up opportunities in the voluntary sector.

Of course, we will end up paying people for serving on public bodies, but this is the only sensible course of action if we want to ensure that our quangos are in any way representative. A little farther down the line, we will also have to think seriously about paying reasonable sums to local councillors responsible for bigger organisations than many FTSE 100 chairmen. Only then will we get the effective management of public resources we want. And, yes, I might one day see a bob or two myself. But who knows, if there is more than peanuts on offer, you might get something better than monkeys.

## How ministers are mastering Sir Humphrey



ANTHONY  
BEVINS  
LABOUR AND  
WHITEHALL

called and a decision was quickly reached.

The same man noted that not all Cabinet colleagues were so decisive. "Some review, some decide," he said in a contemptuous reference to the way in which some ministers handled their arrival in departments by launching reviews rather than getting on with the job.

Other ministers have been marked down as people who stick rigidly to their departmental briefs, the notes written by civil servants that are supposed to guide them through inter-departmental negotiations in Cabinet committee. The crib-sheets tell ministers that they must not disclose their hand to colleagues, particularly the Treasury.

But Labour ministers have been cutting through the culture of Whitehall secrecy by passing on their departmental notes to their colleagues, enabling more informed decisions to be made – though not always in their own narrow departmental interest.

One reason for this government culture-change is that ministers have become accustomed in Opposition to a very different way of working. They are operating an alternative Labour network, a tight-knit

circle of friends who trust each other, who work behind the backs of hidebound officials and brief-bound colleagues.

Critics see overtones of Margaret Thatcher's "one of us" culture being repeated, and a politicisation of the Civil Service being pursued, as similar networks of "New Whitehall" officials are identified across departments, with Labour ministers recruiting co-operative civil servants to the cause.

Peter Hemmery, professor of history at London University

### 'A tight-knit circle of friends are working behind the backs of officials'

and an expert in cabinet government, says that what is happening could amount to a "Whitehall revolution by stealth". But he adds: "One has to remember, at the risk of sounding like a Permanent Secretary, that the Civil Service has this great power to sit it out and then to return, like an automatic pilot, to a slightly changed version of the status quo."

Ministers do not complain that their officials have been

suborned by 18 years of Conservative government; they are concerned about the efficiency and effectiveness of the machine. They argue that, Labour having been elected by a landslide, officials are there to help carry out the party's programme. If they get in the way, they will be pushed aside or purged.

That process has already started, with the departure of a number of senior figures from some departments. Alastair Campbell, the Prime Minister's press secretary, is also

demanding a "raised game" from the Government Information Service, the Civil Service press officers.

A number of ministers describe the weekly meetings of Cabinet as perfunctory and mundane. The real business of government is being carried out in key cabinet committees where men such as Lord Irvine of Lairg, the Lord Chancellor, push through fast-track decisions. The Civil Service machine

might normally offer the Prime Minister and the Chancellor of the Exchequer one formal diary meeting a week. In practice, Gordon Brown and Tony Blair, who have lived cheek by jowl for many years, frequently hold meetings in the early morning and late evening without officials present – which means no minutes can be taken and the Civil Service is bypassed.

Last week, there were no civil servants present when Jack Cunningham, Minister for Agriculture, and Frank Dobson, Secretary of State for Health, agreed that they should ask the Prime Minister to set up a judicial inquiry to track down those to blame for the introduction of BSE into cattle and the human food chain.

Other ministers, such as John Prescott, the Deputy Prime Minister, have been known openly to repudiate the advice given to them by their most senior officials. Mr Prescott was told that he must not visit the scene of the recent Southall rail crash. He went.

But that does not mean that civil servants are being regarded with general disdain. When Gordon Brown arrived in the Treasury on 2 May he pulled out of his pocket a three-page document and handed it to Sir Terence Burns, his Permanent

Secretary, giving him Labour's plans for Bank of England independence on interest rates. It took a team of leading officials just days – in some cases without sleep – to implement the rush plan, with all the secrecy that was required.

In his speech to the Labour conference on Tuesday, Tony Blair gently chided officials with an indirect warning about their behaviour. "They're not in the habit of calling anything a good idea," he told delegates, "which given the last 18 years is hardly surprising."

"When they describe a proposal as 'ambitious', or, even worse, 'interesting', what they really mean is they think it was a stupid idea, dreamt up at the last minute for the manifesto."

"When they describe it as 'challenging', they mean there's not a hope in hell of making it work. And when they say of a policy that 'it really is quite a brave proposal, Prime Minister', it means they've got the doctor outside waiting to sign the certificates..."

It was said afterwards that Mr Blair had been short of a joke or two for his speech. But the writing was also being scrawled on the wall for the officials back in Whitehall: co-operate or go.

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## Archbishop Volodymyr Sterniuk

Volodymyr Sterniuk, priest:  
born Pustomyry, Austro-  
Hungarian Empire 12  
February 1907; ordained  
priest 1931; consecrated 1964  
Bishop of Peremysh;  
Archbishop of Lviv locum  
tenens 1969-91; died Lviv,  
Ukraine 29 September 1997.

Archbishop Volodymyr Sterniuk of Lviv was for 22 years the head of the banned Ukrainian Catholic Church in its home territory of western Ukraine. During the church's persecution his life consisted of, as he later described it, "surveillance, house searches and interrogations on the part of the state and, on my side, attempts to evade surveillance so as at least to be able to carry out ordinations".

Sterniuk was born in 1907 in the village of Pustomyry near Lviv, then part of the Austro-Hungarian empire. War soon engulfed the area and Russian troops of the Tsarist army invaded. Then fighting broke out between Ukrainians and Poles and he was taken with his family to safety in Lviv. Sterniuk decided to follow his father into the priesthood. He was sent by the Redemptorist Order to Belgium to complete his schooling, in 1927 joining their novitiate in St Trond. He studied theology in Louvain and was ordained priest in Belgium in 1931.

Sterniuk returned to western Ukraine and was sent to Volynia to do missionary work. These were difficult years for Eastern-rite Catholics under Polish rule. The government and Roman Catholic Church were keen to assimilate them into the Polish community and church. The missionary work ran into problems when it was put under Polish church control.

In 1939 the Red Army invaded Ivano-Frankivsk, where Sterniuk was living. But before the Soviets could establish themselves the Nazis arrived. They immediately started rounding up and murdering the local Jewish population. Many Jews came to ask Sterniuk for a certificate of baptism, which he gave with no questions. The SS, suspicious about the number he had issued, twice came to arrest him. He had to flee the area, taking refuge in Lviv, where the great prestige of Metropolitan Andrei Sheptytsky, the powerful inter-war leader of the Ukrainian Catholic Church, somewhat restrained the Germans' attacks.

But the Soviets soon returned, and Stalin moved to extinguish the Ukrainian Catholic Church. A forced "synod" in Lviv in 1946, held after the arrest of many leading figures in the church, voted to "re-unite" with the Russian Orthodox Church. Sterniuk, who opposed the forced merger, was arrested in June 1947 for illegally carrying on with his priestly work. He was sentenced to five years in labour camp, which he served in the Arkhangelsk region.

On release Sterniuk re-

turned to Lviv. He worked at various jobs before qualifying as a medical assistant in 1959. In July 1964 he was secretly consecrated as bishop of Peremysh (a diocese which crossed the new Polish/Ukrainian border) by Archbishop Vasyi Velychkovsky. This was the time when secret consecrations, without the prior knowledge or approval of the Vatican, were required to continue the apostolic succession of the church.

Sterniuk was to be Velychkovsky's successor in case of his arrest - which indeed happened in January 1969. Although he had been consecrated bishop of Peremysh, Velychkovsky told him he had jurisdiction over the whole of the Galician Metropolis, based on Lviv. His position as leading Galician bishop was confirmed when Sterniuk heard in February 1972 by a roundabout route that the Vatican had confirmed him as locum tenens of the Archdiocese of Lviv.

By this time Sterniuk was retired, so he had time to devote to his secret episcopal duties. Although the Soviet authorities knew well he was a bishop, Sterniuk appeared in public only as a priest. It was in private at priestly ordinations and the consecration of bishops - often only in the company of the required two witnesses - that he wore episcopal garments.

Sterniuk believed his main duty during those years was to protect the church's structure and to lead the clergy. He took a back seat to the more activist clergy who ministered directly

flat in Lviv where he had lived since 1957.

The momentum for relegalisation was kept up in 1988 and 1989, with hunger strikes in Moscow and demonstrations. On 15 August 1989 all the church's 10 bishops crowded into Sterniuk's flat for their first ever meeting, many not even knowing the identity of all the other bishops. Events moved fast and, to coincide with the historic first meeting of Pope John Paul II and Mikhail Gorbachev in the Vatican on 1 December 1989, it was announced that the ban on the church had been lifted.

The Novosti news agency interviewed Sterniuk on what he described as "this joyful day". It was on 7 January 1990 (Christmas Day in the Eastern Church) that Archbishop Sterniuk first appeared in public as a bishop, when he celebrated a triumphal Christmas liturgy in Lviv.

On 16 January 1991 the Vatican confirmed all the 10 secret bishops in office - but Sterniuk was pointedly described as "Archbishop", not "Metropolitan" as he had customarily been described in Ukraine. The division between the Church in the West, headed directly by Cardinal Myroslav Lubachivsky from Rome, and the Church on its home territory of western Ukraine was one that needed delicate handling.

Sterniuk's moral authority in western Ukraine was great, and Cardinal Lubachivsky, especially on his return to Lviv on 30 March 1991 after more than 50 years' exile from Ukraine, had to tread carefully to assert his leadership. Sterniuk had already been rebuffed by the church for accepting into communion with Rome Bishop Vykenty of the True Orthodox Church, a breakaway group from the Russian Orthodox Church which had existed in the catacombs.

Surviving long enough to see the church's relegalisation, it was hard for Sterniuk to accept that he was then only second in command to Cardinal Lubachivsky, who had not shared the sufferings of the church directly. Already 82 at the time of relegalisation, Sterniuk could leave the many problems of the church - the shortage of priests and facilities, disputes with the Russian and Ukrainian Orthodox Churches - to the younger generation, which by now was coming to the fore.

Coming from the older generation, who had studied in Western Europe between the wars, Sterniuk had a wider view of the world than those who had grown up under Soviet rule. He once apologised to a Western visitor that so few of the younger clergy could converse in Latin. His hospitality, keen intellect and sense of humour endeared him to visitors, but it was his steadfast dedication to his office and his sufferings that gave him a place of honour in western Ukraine.

- Felix Corley



Sterniuk: dedication

to the faithful and who led the increasingly vocal campaigns for the church's relegalisation.

It was only with the arrival of glasnost in the late 1980s that realistic hopes were raised that the Soviet authorities would at last admit that the 1946 "synod" was bogus and the church could be relegalised. As the Russian Orthodox Church gathered its forces to resist this move, Archbishop Sterniuk's status as leading hierarch in Ukraine came to be publicly admitted. This was confirmed in September 1987, when the Ukrainian Catholic synod in Rome (made up only of bishops from the emigration) declared that there were 10 bishops in Ukraine, headed by Archbishop Sterniuk. Many visitors from inside Ukraine and abroad were already making the trek to the dingy one-room



Van Kampen: versatile

Photograph: London Sinfonietta / Marcus Tate

## Christopher van Kampen

Christopher van Kampen, cellist: born Pinner, Middlesex 4 September 1945; married Marcia Crayford (one son, one daughter; marriage dissolved); died Pinner 30 September 1997.

The cellist Christopher van Kampen was a gifted and versatile soloist and chamber musician who was equally at home with the music of Haydn and Mozart as that of the most avant-garde composers of the present time.

Van Kampen read Mathematics at King's College, Cambridge, and studied the cello with Douglas Cameron at the Royal Academy of Music in London, where in his first year he became a finalist in the BBC Cello Competition. In 1967 he became the cellist of the Nash Ensemble, with whom he continued to perform worldwide right up to his death. In 1969, at the age of 24, he was appointed Principal Cello of the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra, a position he held for three years.

In 1968 van Kampen had played in the inaugural concert of the London Sinfonietta and

in the early 1970s became Principal Cello. Over the years he appeared as a soloist with most of the leading British orchestras and played in a number of chamber music ensembles, including the Brindisi String Quartet.

He specialised in contemporary music and collaborated with many celebrated composers including Luciano Berio, Hans Werner Henze and Sir Michael Tippett. In 1988 he gave the first performance of Hans Abraham's *Lied in Fall*, a work written especially for him, and in 1990 gave the UK premiere of H.K. Gruber's *Cello Concerto*, which he also played in the 1991 Proms. He was closely associated with John Tavener's *The Protecting Veil* for cello and orchestra, which he played many times in the UK and abroad, including the 1992 Aldeburgh Festival with the London Sinfonietta. He performed Benjamin Britten's complete works for the solo cello at the Wigmore Hall and once played both Shostakovich's cello concertos at the same concert at St John's Smith Square.

His numerous solo recordings included music from Jan-

ack, Hindemith and Debussy to Schubert, and he also made many recordings with the Nash Ensemble where again the music ranged from Debussy and Ravel to Beethoven, Brahms and Dvorak.

His fellow musicians appear to have nothing but admiration and affection for him. Gareth Hulse, oboist of the Nash Ensemble, told me: "He was always very excited when he discovered a new young cello talent and would encourage and assist wherever it was possible. He was absolutely devoid of any professional jealousy and working with him was sheer pleasure."

The concert given by the Nash Ensemble on 5 October as part of the South Bank's Raising Sparks Festival will be dedicated to his memory. On 13 October, with the viola player Paul Silverthorne and the London Sinfonietta under Martyn Brabbins, he was due to give the world premiere of Alexander Raskatov's double concerto *Miserere in memoriam Oleg Kagan*, as part of the Dimensions Festival at the South Bank; this concert will now also be dedicated to his memory.

- Margaret Campbell

## Dorothy Kingsley

Dorothy Kingsley, screenwriter: born New York 14 October 1909; twice married (three sons, three daughters); died Carmel, California 26 September 1997.

"I never think of myself as a real writer," said Dorothy Kingsley, looking back on a long career. "I only wrote because I needed the money." The money was steady, and came principally from MGM, who employed this prolific, witty writer for 16 busy years on such musicals as *Seven Brides for Seven Brothers*, *Kiss Me, Kate*, and no less than seven vehicles for the swimming star Esther Williams.

Born in New York to an actress mother and a journalist father, Kingsley moved with her mother to Detroit after her parents divorced. After her own marriage was dissolved in the late 1930s, she took her three sons to Los Angeles, determined to support them by becoming a gag writer. She wrote radio comedy for Bob Hope and, later, for the ventriloquist Edgar Bergen, who started her in screenwriting when he and his dummy Charlie McCarthy appeared in RKO's *Look Who's Laughing* (1941). This low-budget second feature was a surprise smash hit, and Kingsley also contributed material to its successful sequel, *Here We Go, Again* (1942).

She then started writing original screen stories and submitting them to the studios. MGM's legendary producer Arthur Freed was impressed with her work and had her placed under contract - her first assignment, to write additional dialogue for the Mickey Rooney/Judy Garland musical *Girl Crazy* (1943). She was also asked to bring some order to the chaotic screenplay of *Bathing Beauty* (1944), a Red Skelton-Esther Williams musical, on which six other writers had already laboured. The result of her endeavours was a top-grossing film that made Williams one of the studio's biggest stars.

Her fourth script for the "Chlorine Queen" was *Nephele's Daughter* (1949). Frank Loesser, who was writing the score, told Kingsley that he'd composed a surefire duet, but didn't know what to do with it. After hearing the song, she wrote a new scene, in which Williams and Ricardo Montalban could sing it. The number, "Baby, It's Cold Outside", won the 1949 Best Song Oscar.

After writing the screen version of Sam and Bella Spewack



Kingsley: prolific

and Cole Porter's *Kiss Me, Kate* (1953), Kingsley was asked to refine Frances Goodrich and Albert Hackett's script for *Seven Brides for Seven Brothers* (1954). Deciding that Adam Pontipee (Howard Keel) had too much to do and his wife Milly (Jane Powell) too little, she wrote a scene in which Milly taught Adam's brothers how to woo a female. She then got Johnny Mercer and Gene de Paul to write "Goin' Co'tin'", one of the film's most winning song-and-dance numbers.

Reviewing the film version of *Pal Joey* (1957), *Time* magazine stated, "Almost everything that could be done wrong the moviemakers have done wrong in this production, and yet somehow the picture comes out remarkably right." Columbia Pictures had indeed cut out most of the Broadway show's songs while bowdlerising the remaining ones, and Kingsley's script had changed the lecherous Vera Simpson (Rita Hayworth) from an adulterous wife to a widow, disinfected John O'Hara's original dialogue, and allowed the reptilian Joey Evans to give up his womanising ways by the final scene. Yet, the film was still far sexier and sharper than most screen musicals, studded with classic Rodgers and Hart songs from other sources, and blessed with the perfect Joey in Frank Sinatra. So pleased was *Of Blue Eyes* with Kingsley's contribution to *Pal Joey* that he later accepted, sight unseen, the screen version of Cole Porter's *Can-Can* (1960), which she co-wrote.

In 1967 Kingsley and Helen Deutsch co-wrote the profitable film version of Jacqueline Susann's *Valley of the Dolls*. Clearly, the experience gave Kingsley a taste for soap opera; in 1969 she created and wrote *Bracken's World*, an hour-long television series set in the mythical Century Studios. Variety called it "the classiest soap yet." The setting is the entire 20th Century-Fox lot. Perhaps *Bracken's World* was too classy for the general public; it lasted only two seasons. After its cancellation, Dorothy Kingsley retired from writing and concentrated on her social activities, her children and her second marriage, to William Durney, owner of a seafood company and a winery.

For 27 years her name was absent from film credits, until 1994, when the Disney corporation remade *Angels in the Outfield*. Her 1951 comedy-fantasy about an eight-year-old orphan girl (Donna Corcoran) whose prayers turn a losing baseball team into a world-beating one. Despite some abusive reviews, the remake was a smash hit - Kingsley's last.

When Pat McGilligan interviewed her eight years ago for *Backstory 2*, his book on screenwriters, he asked which of her films she preferred. After singling out *Pal Joey* and *Angels in the Outfield*, she said, "The others, I always think, 'Gee, why didn't we do this?' or 'It should have been better.'"

- Dick Vosburgh

## BIRTHS, MARRIAGES & DEATHS

### DEATHS

**McGOWAN:** M.G.A. (Molly), widow of G.W.F. (Dick) McGowan, of Hayes, Swanscombe, peacefully on 3 October, aged 97. Funeral, 3.30pm, at St Mary's on Tuesday 7 October. **SCRELLING:** Richard Selwyn Francis, CBE MD DSc FRCS, on 30 September 1997, aged 86. Peacefully at home. Much-loved husband of Heather, wonderful father, father-in-law, grandfather and great-grandfather. Funeral Service, 9 October, 2.30pm, St Peter's Church, De Beauvoir Road, London N1. Family flowers only, enquiries to 071-225 3886. Donations in his memory to Horder Centre for Artistic, Creative and Technical Education, 11, St John's Hospice, Mare Street, London E8.

**Announcements for Deaths, Births, Marriages & Deaths** should be sent to the Editor, The Independent, Canary Wharf, London E14 5LH, telephone 020 7551 2000, or faxed to 020 7551 2001, and are charged at £6.50 a line (VAT extra). OTHER notices are charged at £4.00 a line (VAT extra).

### ROYAL ENGAGEMENTS

The Princess Royal, Princess Anne, Duchess of York, will marry the Duke of York, Prince Andrew, on 19 October 1997. The ceremony will take place at Westminster Abbey, London. The Duke of York, Prince Andrew, will marry the Duchess of York, Princess Anne, on 19 October 1997. The ceremony will take place at Westminster Abbey, London. The Duke of York, Prince Andrew, will marry the Duchess of York, Princess Anne, on 19 October 1997. The ceremony will take place at Westminster Abbey, London.

### Birthdays

**TODAY:** Professor Richard Batchelor, immunologist, 66; Lord Blaker, former government minister, 75; Sir Neville Bowdler-Shaw, chairman, Bess Trucks Ltd, 67; Miss Jackie Collins, novelist, 60; Sir Terence Couran, chairman, The Corn Law Shop, 66; Air Chief Marshal Sir Kenneth Cross, 86; Mr Basil D'Oleira, politician, 66; Dr E. Dudley Hart, entomologist, 88; Mr Charles Heslop, actor, 73; Sir John Hogg, former deputy chairman, Williams and Glyn's Bank, 85; Mr Frank Keating, journalist, 60; Mr John McFall MP, a Lord Commissioner, 53; Mr Tony Mee, snooker champion, 38; Sir Hector Monro, former MP, 75; Dr Gareth Owen, former Vice-Chancellor, University of Wales, 74; Mr Giles Radice MP, 61; Miss Anne Rice, television presenter, 39; Mr John Rutherford, rugby player, 42; Miss Susan Sanderson, actress, 51; The Right Rev Dr Richard Bay, former Bishop of Rochester, 83; Mr Marcus Setchell, Surgeon-Gynaecologist to the Queen, 54; Sir George Sheldon, former High Court judge, 84; Miss Ann Widdecombe MP, 50.

**TOMORROW:** Sir Raymond Appleby, biologist, 75; Mr Robin Bailey, actor, 78; Mr John Bridgman, Director-General of Fair Trading, 53; Mr Alastair Chisholm of Chisholm, chief of the Clan Chisholm, 77; Mr Ray Clewence, footballer, 48; Miss Stephanie Cole, actress, 36; The Most Rev Joseph Cunnane, former Roman Catholic Archbishop of Tuam, 84; Miss Laura Davies, golfer, 34; Sir John Dent, former Chairman, Civil Aviation Authority, 74; Mr Bob Goldof, musician, 43; The Right Rev Robert Hardy, Bishop of Lincoln, 61; Mr Václav Havel, President

of the Czech Republic, 61; Lord Holderness, former government minister, 77; Miss Glynn Johns, actress, 74; Mr Robert Koe, author and broadcaster, 78; Miss Barbara Kelly, actress and broadcaster, 73; Mr Herbert Kretzmer, journalist and lyricist, 72; Mrs Kate Lonsdale, former trade union leader, 73; Mr David Melfor, silversmith and designer, 67; Sir Edward Peck, former British ambassador to Nato, 82; Mr Douglas Ranger, otolaryngologist, 81; Mr Adrian Sundall, ambassador to Syria, 60; Sir Richard Thompson Bt, former MP and director of British Museum Publications, 85.

### Anniversaries

**TODAY:** Births: Richard Cromwell, Lord Protector, 1629; Alfred Dames, Rayon, writer and journalist, 1884; Henri Gaudier-Brzeska, sculptor, 1891. Deaths: St Teresa of Avila, Carmelite nun, 1582; Rembrandt Harmenszoon van Rijn, painter, 1669; Janis Joplin, rock singer, 1970. On this day: Peterborough Cathedral was consecrated, 1238; the first public escalator was opened at Earl's Court underground station, 1911. Today is the Feast Day of St Ammon, St Francis of Assisi and St Petronius of Bologna.

**TOMORROW:** Births: Denis Diderot, scholar and encyclopaedist, 1713; Donald Pleasence, actor, 1919. Deaths: Jacques Offenbach (Jakob Levy Eberst), composer, 1880; William Heinemann, publisher and playwright, 1920; Leonard Rossier, actor, 1984. On this day: tea rationing ended in Britain, 1952. Tomorrow is the Feast Day of St Apollinaris of Valencia, St Flora of Beaulieu, St Galla, St Magentia or Melinda and St Maurus.

## FAITH & REASON

### The geometry of innocent flesh on the bone

Bob Dylan's songs to God are among the finest Christian hymns ever written. Rooted in an apocalyptic Calvinism Dylan sings like a man with the Last Things right before his eyes, writes Andrew Brown.

When Bob Dylan sang for the Pope a week ago today, it did not seem a meeting of equals: one of the two men can draw huge crowds of young people wherever he goes and still releases best-selling albums of dense poetry; the other is widely seen as the clapped-out old relic of an outmoded belief system even though he is only 56 and has just released a very good record himself.

But I still like to believe that Dylan will be remembered as long as the Pope, at least by those who care about religious poetry. For the songs he wrote in his Christian period in the early Eighties seem to me as fine as any hymns I know. Of course they're not George Herbert or even John Bunyan. They derive a great part of their power from the music - but that is not a crime in hymnody; and they are infinitely bet-

ter than happy-clappy drivel like "Shine, Jesus, Shine", named in a moment of regrettable spontaneity by George Carey as one of his favourite hymns.

Unless you visit the churches where they are perpetrated, it is difficult to grasp just how bad the "worship song" can be. Not even Dylan at his most pathetic can match such things as "Lord, you put a tongue in my mouth" or "Lord, I can feel you changing me" - this last known for obvious reasons as the nappy song. And Dylan's songs to God are not his most pathetic. For one thing, they are not mushy. Whether as a Jew or a Christian, he has always been apocalyptically interested: one of the songs he performed for the Pope was "A Hard Rain's Gonna Fall", written for the Cuban Missile Crisis in 1962, when it seemed the world might be blown up at any moment. But its imagery is not nuclear: it is a descent into the valley of the shadow of death, all right, but the route taken is nowhere specified.

As a Christian, however, he was a Calvinist. He studied under John Wimber, once the drummer in the Righteous Brothers, who founded one of the most successful fundamentalist church groupings of the last 30 years. Wimber's

Vineyard Fellowship has specialised in miracles and apocalyptic excitements. First it was healings, then prophecies, and most recently the Toronto Blessing; yet all these have been anchored in a rigorous Calvinism.

There are so many things wrong with a system that holds that a just God will condemn millions to eternal, unimaginable suffering, that it is easy to overlook the merits of Calvinism, and chief among these is beauty. It is a beautiful system of thought in the way that engineering, chess, or even software can be beautiful: all the vast forces within it are perfectly arranged and balanced. It brings to life Dylan's phrase about "the geometry of innocent flesh on the bone". God's justice and his mercy between them account for all the varieties of human experience; and if most of these varieties turn out to be unpleasant, that conforms the close fit of the theory to experience. Everything exists within a perfect finished plan.

Dylan has always thrown fragments of religious texts into his songs, but they usually come from the Bible. "Perfect finished plan", which comes in the chorus of "Every Grain of Sand" is a rare exception: a piece of secondary dogma,

which he manages, however, to integrate completely into the argument and passion of the song. It is only crabbled old religious freaks who notice it in the hoarse torrent of conviction with which he sings. For the real triumph of Dylan as a religious singer is the way that he manages to inject fierce personal anguish into the cold certainties of Calvinism. Dylan can sing like a man with the Last Things right before his eyes.

Some form of this is traditional among rock stars: many have sung as if the last overdose were in front of them. But just as Dylan sings about deeper beliefs than that, he also sings wonderfully of joy. I don't think anything written this century can beat the leaping, bounding joy of "You Shall Be Changed" with its chorus in which the dead arise - and burst out of their clothes. Bursting is the verb to make the resurrection of the body mean something. And while other journalists may pacify their children on long car journeys with tapes of Pope John Paul reciting the rosary, I will continue to inflame mine with great blasts of "Slow Train Coming".

"Faith & Reason" is edited by Paul Valley



هكذا من الأصل

## TAKING STOCK

STOCK  
MARKET  
REPORTER  
OF THE YEAR

All the manoeuvring has proclaimed the message that MEPC is in play. Some suspect Mr Riblat has now decided to act.

BritLand was at one time 34.5p higher at a 699.5p peak when the shares closed at 694p, a 29p gain. MEPC jumped 17p to 451p; its £247m bid for the rather unglamorous FSI property group has been accepted by shareholders.

**Redland**, the building materials group which looked like being demolished by worse than expected interim figures, continued to recover. It is claimed chairman Rupert Agnew regards the group as vulnerable to a predatory strike. A review is under way which could lead to job losses. The shares rallied 21.5p to 254p, they slumped to 220p when the half-time results appeared.

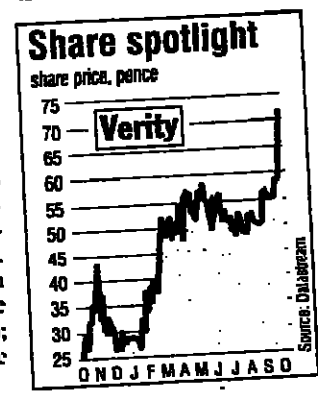
Verity jumped 15p to a 72.75p record in busy trading. It has clinched seven more licensing deals, making 11 this year, for its NXT wafer thin loudspeaker technology. Negotiations involving another 20 links are going on. In the year ending the company made a

ing and selling print services, has suffered contract delays and Merrill Lynch has cut its profits forecast but suggests the shares could reach 250p in the next year. It is looking for £4.5m this year and £6.7m next.

Latchways, which develops safety equipment for builders, made a firm debut. Placed at 155p the shares closed at 174.5p.

**London & Edinburgh**  
Publishing firmed to 5.5p. New chairman John Webber and his deputy David Ellingham have just picked up 4.92 per cent of the capital at 2.55p. The shares appear to have come from founders Robert Gold and Anthony Hussain.

Langdons Foods, the struggling tea and coffee group raising \$860,000 through a one-for-one rights issue, is thought to be attracting tentative predatory interest. It has suffered largely due to its Importers coffee shop subsidiary which it now wants to sell. Since it was hived off from Plantation & General two years ago Langdons has made two cash calls. The shares bump along at 1.5p.



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## BZW businesses for sale as Barclays gives up global ambitions

Barclays abandoned its ambition to be a global player in investment banking yesterday, putting BZW's equities and corporate finance businesses up for sale. Tom Stevenson, Financial Editor, reports on the bank's change of heart.

BZW swapped one kind of uncertainty for another yesterday after Barclays, its parent, said it was inviting offers for a large part of the investment bank. Staff, who had learned to live with persistent rumours they were on the block, are now worrying about the identity of their new owner.

Bill Harrison, BZW's chief executive for little more than a year, resigned yesterday after the integrated investment bank he was expensively drafted in to run was dismembered.

Shares in Barclays tumbled after its chief executive Martin Taylor claimed he had not yet found a buyer for BZW, prompting fears that the bank's most valuable asset - its staff - might leave before a deal was finalised. Having soared over the last month by more than 20 per cent on speculation that a deal was imminent, they closed 49.5p lower yesterday at 1697.5p.

Mr Taylor said the decision to sell the equities and mergers and acquisitions advisory arms of BZW had been taken around two weeks ago, but staff were only informed officially at an early morning meeting at the investment bank's new headquarters in London's Docklands yesterday.

The disposal follows months of increasingly feverish speculation about the future of BZW. Mr Taylor has been under considerable pressure from investors to improve the returns from investment banking or withdraw.

Barclays said it would hold on to BZW's markets division and its debt-related restructuring, lending and private

equity arms, which it will group together within the bank as Barclays Capital Group. Goldman Sachs has been appointed to advise on the sale of the remainder.

Mr Taylor defended his decision to announce the intention to sell before a buyer had been secured, saying it would provide BZW's staff with "clarity". He said the initial "shock, sadness and disappointment" of staff had quickly been replaced by an understanding that the move was inevitable, given the changing nature of the equities market.

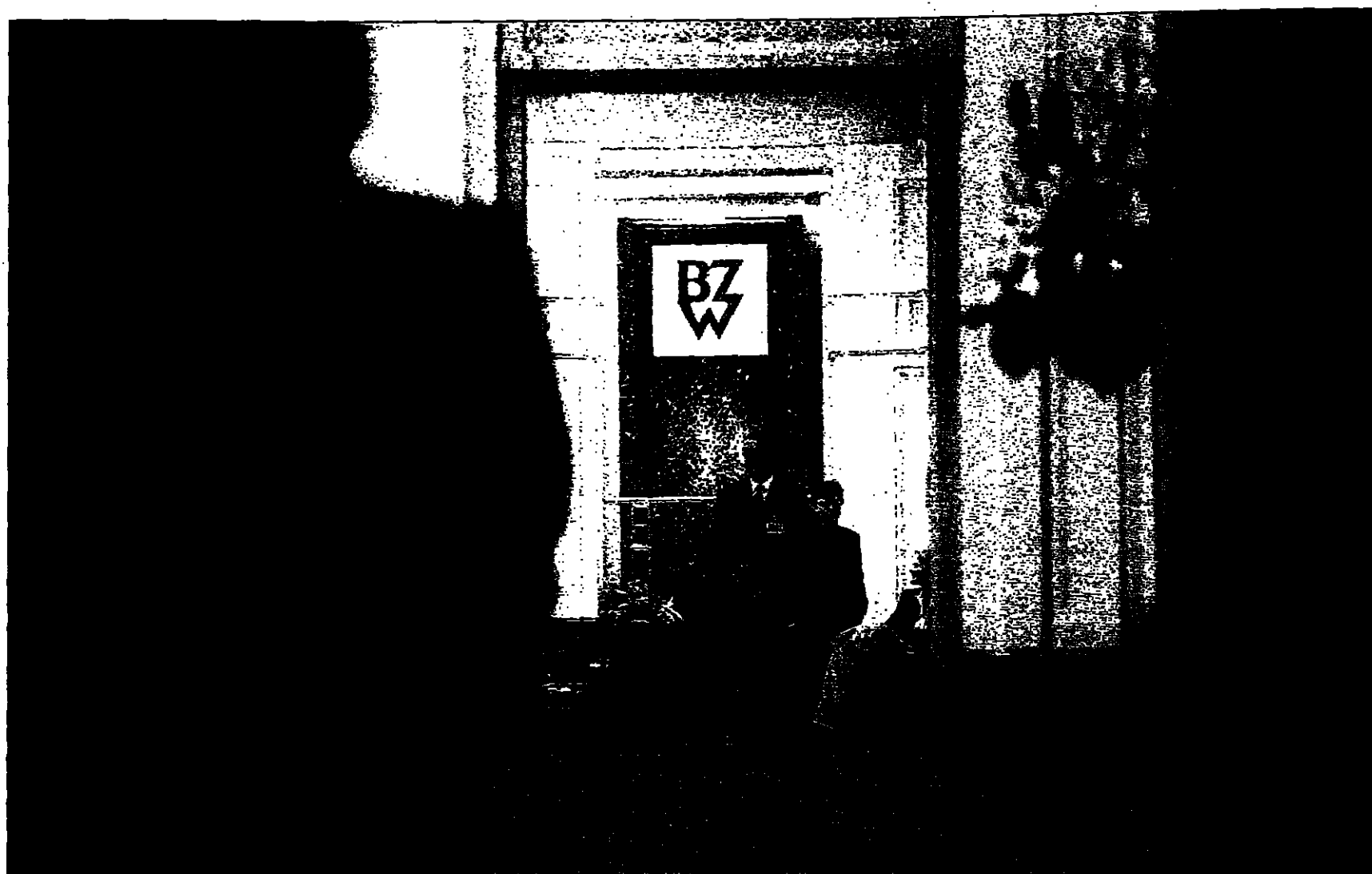
Few in the City believed that Barclays would have announced the sale without having a potential bidder in the wings. Yesterday's move was seen as a ruse to flush out other possible buyers. One analyst said Barclays' claim not to have had private discussions with buyers was "ludicrous".

Germany's Commerzbank, ING of Holland, Switzerland's UBS and Paribas of France are seen as the front-runners in the auction. One rumour circulating yesterday suggested that Barclays already had four sealed bids.

Both BZW and its rival NatWest Markets have found themselves squeezed between the so-called bulge bracket of giant American investment banks, which have flourished on the back of an enormous domestic franchise, niche UK players such as Flemings, Schroders and Close Brothers, and the continental banks that are pouring millions of pounds of investment into London.

Mr Taylor said yesterday the world of investment banking was changing rapidly from a series of national brokerages to one dominated by big global players. He believed the investment needed to join that elite club was too large, and the returns too uncertain, to justify the risks involved.

Bill Harrison added: "The issue is the investment required to provide the primary and derivatives focus which elevates the scale and nature of the business in a very competitive market. The competition gradient is steepening all the time."



Uncertain future: Following Barclays' announcement yesterday, BZW staff are worrying about the identity of their new owner. Photograph: Kalpesh Lathigra

Mr Taylor described the operations to be sold as relatively small in the context of BZW, representing about £200m of the firm's total income of nearly £700m last year. He warned that redundancies, especially in back office functions which employ 3,500 out of a worldwide total of 7,500, were inevitable.

Bill Harrison said he was leaving BZW because he had come to run an integrated business and the decision to break up the firm was not consistent with that vision. He added, however, that he understood completely the competing demands on capital that Mr Taylor faced and respected the decision.

The decision by Barclays to throw in the towel in investment banking means this year comes close to matching the traumas of 1995 for the sector. That year saw the collapse of Barings, the sale of Warburgs to

SBC and the purchase of Kleinwort Benson and Smith New Court by Dresdner Bank and Merrill Lynch respectively.

Mr Harrison caused shockwaves at BZW when he was hired following the death of former chief executive David Band in 1996 on a package worth £5m over five years. A blunt operator, whose Birmingham accent set him apart from the City's smoother types, he is variously described as a "human dynamo, robust and rebellious" and less favourably as "Attila the Hun".

His management style has been described as "bouncing off the walls, inspiring staff and terrorising his enemies with his own brand of raw energy". Within months of arriving at BZW last September, he replaced almost all its senior staff, spending heavily on recruitment to replace a steady stream of defectors who were un-

happy with the new more aggressive regime.

Having famously described time at home as "a wasted marketing opportunity", Mr Harrison is not expected to be out of a job for long. Martin Taylor confirmed that he would be receiving compensation but would not say how much.

The enormity of the task facing Mr Harrison when he arrived at BZW last year was underlined within months of his appointment by a slump in its profits during 1996 from £289m to £204m. Barclays' shares crashed following the announcement of its results as investors focused on the drag to the group's overall return on capital from investment banking. Martin Taylor described BZW's performance as inadequate, effectively putting the division on probation.

Like rival NatWest Markets, BZW has failed to compete with its enormously

strong US rivals and been squeezed by the willingness of its continental peers to accept relatively low returns on equity. Because they make comparatively poor returns in their home markets, the returns from UK investment banking look relatively attractive.

The timing of the sale is ironic, coming just as BZW appeared to be heading in the right direction again. Interim results in August showed a decline in profits from £148m to £124m, but that included a £20m derivatives hit, and compared well with the £42m made in the second half of 1996.

Bob Diamond, chief executive of BZW's markets business, is staying with the bank to run Barclays Capital Group. Jonathan Davis, BZW's deputy chairman, is to chair the businesses that are to be sold. Steve Harker, the head of equities, who was initially reported to have resigned, is understood to be staying on.

## C&W chief could earn £1.7m following 'golden handcuff' package

Cable & Wireless has doubled the share bonus package of Dick Brown, its chief executive, and raised his salary by a third, in an attempt to prevent him from moving to another job. Chris Godsmark, Business Correspondent, reports on a scheme which could see Mr Brown earn £1.7m in this year, but only if he stays on at the company for three years.

Leading shareholders in C&W were told of Mr Brown's pay increase in a recent letter, as the company attempted to gauge reaction to a package which would give him a minimum annual share bonus worth 80 per cent of his salary. The new pay award amounts to a "golden handcuff" arrangement to encourage the Mr Brown, a US citizen who joined C&W in July 1996, to stay at the helm until 2000.

C&W launched the review after fears that Mr Brown would be approached with a job offer from AT&T, the world's second largest phone company. AT&T has been searching for a new chief operating officer after the surprise resignation of John Walter in July. Mr Walter, who was paid \$22m when he joined AT&T last year, left after being refused the chairman's job.

It is understood that Brian Smith, C&W's chairman, appointed outside consultants to review Mr Brown's pay the day after Mr Walter resigned. They measured his salary against other international telecommunications companies, including MCI and AT&T, and found Mr Brown's compared "very unfavourably". C&W declined to comment on whether he had actually made it on to AT&T's shortlist.

C&W yesterday confirmed the details of the package, which included raising Mr Brown's basic salary by a third, from £487,500 to £650,000. The increase took effect during the current financial year, which started on 1 April, despite the fact that some investors have yet to give the company their verdict.

It is the share bonus element of the package which is likely to prove the most controversial. C&W has doubled the total possible share bonus award under its long-term incentive plan from 60 per cent to 120 per cent of salary. The new bonus scheme would only take effect if Mr Brown stayed with C&W for three years.

The increase, which applies solely to Mr

Brown, could see him awarded C&W shares worth up to £780,000 this year. To gain the maximum bonus, C&W's earnings have to grow at 15 per cent above inflation over a three-year period. No changes were made to the performance targets during the pay review.

Most surprisingly, the minimum award of shares possible under the scheme has gone up from 10 per cent of salary to 80 per cent, almost guaranteeing Mr Brown a £520,000 share bonus, compared with just £65,000 under the old scheme. The minimum award is paid out if C&W's earnings grow at 2.5 per cent above inflation over a three-year period.

Under the existing remuneration scheme Mr Brown is also entitled to an annual cash bonus on top, worth up to 40 per cent of salary, which would give him another £260,000. Taken together, the basic salary and short and long-term bonus plans would give Mr Brown a £1.69m pay packet this year, assuming C&W meets the top performance criteria. He was paid £1.24m last year, including a £305,517 relocation allowance.

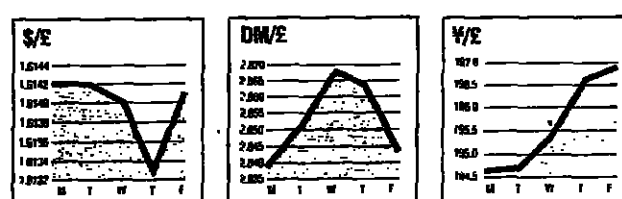
It would make him one of the best paid chief executives of a company in the FTSE 100 share index. Sir Peter Bonfield, chief executive of British Telecom, is on a £570,000 salary, while Sir Iain Vallance, executive chairman, is paid £500,000.

Sources close to C&W indicated big shareholders were mostly happy with the bonus scheme. But one investor canvassed yesterday warned that the increase in the minimum share bonus, with no rise in performance targets, was worrying. "I suspect it's a rather large bonus payment for pretty mediocre performance targets. We would like to see the targets based on peer group comparisons in the telecoms industry and total shareholder returns, including share price increases."

C&W said Mr Brown's success in his first year had made him a "highly marketable international chief executive". Mr Smith continued: "The chairman's job is to get the best talent and to keep it. I don't want another head-hunting exercise."

The company's prospects have improved markedly under Mr Brown, who joined after the high-profile resignations of Lord Young, chairman, and James Ross, chief executive. He swiftly put together deals to merge Mercury Communications, C&W's main UK business, with three cable companies and secured an agreement with China over the future of Hong Kong Telecom. C&W's most lucrative cash cow. Over the past year C&W's share price has risen by 33 per cent.

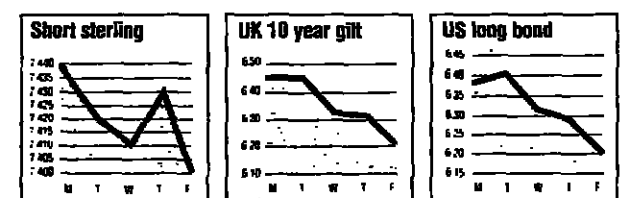
### STOCK MARKETS



Source: Jones Index and graph at Spot

Indices	Close	Change	Change (%)	52 wk high	52 wk low	Yield (%)
FTSE 100	3320.00	34.70	0.56	3317.10	3090.40	3.29
DAX 250	3983.90	22.60	0.47	3961.30	3438.10	3.35
FTSE 350	2555.30	15.70	0.62	2545.60	1949.20	3.30
FTSE All Share	2492.41	15.12	0.61	2482.38	1925.79	3.29
FTSE SmallCap	2360.8	11.10	0.47	2374.20	2128.40	3.14
FTSE Floating	1301.9	4.90	0.38	1346.50	1198.70	3.28
FTSE AIM	1005.4	-1.40	-0.14	1138.00	1002.10	0.97
Dow Jones	8099.85	63.11	0.79	8259.31	5921.67	1.95
Nikkei	17947.45	192.41	1.10	21612.30	17303.65	0.99
Hang Seng	15128.02	79.72	0.52	16674.27	11905.51	2.79
Dax	4278.71	76.73	1.83	4438.53	2893.25	1.87

### INTEREST RATES

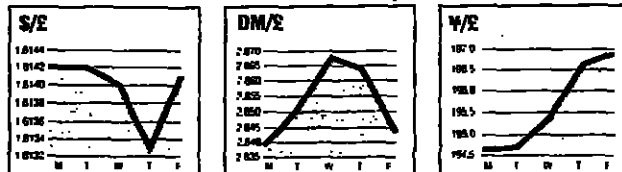


Money Market Rates	3 month	1 yr	1 year	1 yr	10 year	1 yr	Long bond	1 yr
UK	7.33	1.39	7.57	1.32	6.20	-1.17	6.27	-1.95
US	5.75	0.14	5.97	0.05	5.90	-0.70	6.20	-0.64
Japan	0.53	-0.04	0.59	-0.06	2.13	-0.92	2.48	-0.76
Germany	3.40	0.28	3.76	0.50	5.40	-0.63	6.03	-0.61

### MAIN PRICE CHANGES

Rises	Price	Chg	% Chg	Falls	Price	Chg	% Chg
Brit Energy	354.50	21.50	6.45	Blocompables	595.00	-42.50	-6.77
Bodycote Int	1054.00	46.50	4.62	United Assur	491.50	-22.00	-4.28
WH Smith	381.50	16.00	4.38	Holls Royce	243.00	-10.50	-4.14
Brit Telecom	459.50	17.50	3.95	Brit Biotech	149.50	-5.50	-3.55

### CURRENCIES



Pound	10 Sep	Change	% Chg	Dollar	10 Sep	Change	% Chg
Dollar	1.6151	+0.0036	2.2568	Sterling	0.6192	-0.0030	-0.5387
D-Mark	2.8401	-2.05p	2.3962	D-Mark	1.7597	-1.39p	-1.5907
Yen	156.78	+0.02	0.013	Yen	121.83	+0.05	0.0411
£ Index	100.50	-0.10	-0.10	£ Index	105.00	-0.30	-0.29

### OTHER INDICATORS

Commodities	Close	Chg	% Chg	Index	Close	Chg	% Chg
Brent Oil (\$)	20.86	0.48	2.34	GDP	112.80	3.50	3.14
Gold (\$)	333.45	1.40	0.42	RPI	158.50	3.5	2.24
Silver (\$)	5.15	-0.04	-0.78	Base Rates	7.00	5.75	82.14

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source: Bloomberg

## Spottiswoode signals her intention to step down

Clare Spottiswoode, the gas industry regulator, is unlikely to stay on in the post when her contract expires next year, unless the Government moves swiftly to merge the electricity and gas watchdogs.

Chris Godsmark, Business Correspondent, reports on the growing dilemma for Labour as ministers review the shape of utility regulation.

Ms Spottiswoode, who is paid a salary of £90,000, is understood to be reluctant to continue as gas regulator when her five-year contract at Ofgas, the industry watchdog, comes up for renewal on 31 October 1998. In most previous cases regulators have been asked to stay at the helm for a second term. However, Ms Spottiswoode has warned she is unlikely to commit herself for another five years, though she has not made a final decision.

She would be the second utility regulator to leave the job since Labour came to power. Last month Don Cruickshank, the telephone regulator, said he had decided not to ask for another five-year term at the helm of Ofel, insisting he was looking for new challenges.

It is understood Ms Spottiswoode shares the same worries about her position at Ofgas, after full domestic gas competition is introduced across the UK next summer. She believes most of the big challenges involved in reforming the gas market would have been addressed, leaving her a reduced role in the future.

The much touted merger of Ofgas and Offer, the electricity watchdog, would have encouraged Ms Spottiswoode to seek another term. But she has apparently received no steer from the Department of Trade on when the rationalisation would take place, if at all.

John Battle, industry minister, has previously indicated he would favour a merger on the grounds that many companies, such as British Gas, are to sell both gas and power. However, Mr Battle has suggested it would be better to wait until the domestic electricity market has opened up, a process which is due to take place next year but is widely expected to be delayed.

It was unclear yesterday whether Ms Spottiswoode had told the Government of her likely decision, though ministers are aware of her keenness to merge Offer and Ofgas. The DTI is reviewing utility regulation and is due to publish a Green Paper on the whole system in December.

Ms Spottiswoode's reign at Ofgas has been controversial. She persuaded the Conservative government to push new gas legislation through parliament as the precursor to domestic competition. Trials of residential competition have been a success, despite concerns about billing difficulties and doorstep selling tactics.

Another success was the victory over price controls for the former British Gas's pipeline business, Transco. But in recent months she has been under pressure, with fears that low-income customers were getting little benefit from competition, and concerns about selective price cuts introduced by British Gas.

## Glaxo Wellcome ditches Biotech alliance

Glaxo Wellcome said yesterday that it would not now proceed with work on two new arthritis compounds from British Biotech after toxicity problems forced it to abandon early clinical trials on British Biotech's pill for arthritis and bowel disease. Glaxo had paid British Biotech £11m for the rights to develop the drug, called BB-2983. In a sector already flooded by a plague of bad news this year, British Biotech's shares fell heavily, closing 10 per cent down at 134p.

British Biotech called the news "disappointing", but said that BB-293 was at a very early stage of development, where high failure rates were common. "This is what happens in normal drug development," the company said that although BB-2983 and British Biotech's key cancer drug marimastat belong to the same class of MMP inhibitor compounds, the development

of marimastat, currently in final stage clinical trials, was "completely unaffected".

While both drugs are known to cause joint pain, the toxicity problems which halted the BB-2983 trials were "totally unexpected" and had never been seen in marimastat. The group said that it is currently collecting toxicity data on another of its MMP inhibitors, BB3644 for multiple sclerosis which it is developing itself. British Biotech said the absence of cash from Glaxo for developing the drug was not material to its funding plans. Jo Walton, drug analyst at Lehman Brothers said BB-2983 was never expected to reach market before 2010 and was "irrelevant" to British Biotech's valuation, taking just 2p off her 150p net present value estimate.

- Sameena Ahmad



هكذا من الاصل



## OUTLOOK

JEREMY  
WARNER

## What happened to vision and ambition?

This has been a bad week for the global ambitions of corporate Britain. BT's plans to merge with MCI of the US and join the super-league of world telecom companies are pretty much dead in the water following the counter bid from WorldCom, while Barclays, our last hope of a British owned global investment bank, yesterday announced that it was throwing in the towel.

Both moves were greeted with visible relief in the City. BT's share price danced for joy, and while reaction to the news from Barclays was a little more muted, everyone agreed it was the right thing for the bank to be doing. What's wrong with our financial markets that they could think in this way? Where's the vision and the ambition for our companies? Where's the chutzpah?

BT forced to abandon its global ambitions? Excellent news, says the City and our mostly enfeebled press. Victory for common sense and all that. Can't let this lot gamble our money away empire building around the world, Barclays to give up on its attempt to create a global investment bank. Shame really that one, but, hey, what chance did they ever have?

Both reactions are understandable enough. A good business and investment case can be made for each of them. But they also seem symptomatic of a wider failure of nerve and imagination.

There's no problem with this sort of thing on Wall Street, which seems only too delighted to back its best industrialists and entrepreneurs as they shoot for the stars. It may be fashionable these days to knock the Continental economies, with their archaic labour and capital markets, but they too seem prepared to take the long view as their corporations prepare for the challenges of the twenty first century and the integrated world economy.

Not so here in Britain where executive success seems to be measured only in terms of share buybacks, special dividends and good housekeeping. Here the obsession is with short term shareholder value, the cautious approach and generally reigning in. It's a bad business which future generations will curse us for.

Everything might seem hunky dory in the British economy right now, but the long drawn out post war process of abandoning economic power and influence around the world continues unabated. Cynicism rules our companies as it does our markets. Our opportunity to fight back is being squandered as all around us seize theirs. Our obsession with short term shareholder value perverts our judgement and destroys our purpose.

Britain's failure to create a top notch integrated investment bank capable of com-

peting on a world scale requires some detailed explaining. For all our post war corporate failings, this one is perhaps the hardest of the lot to understand. Financial services is meant to be one of the things Britain is good at, like pop music, pharmaceuticals and cricket. The City is one of the three great financial centres in the world. In some markets it is now bigger and better than Wall Street. Why is it, then, that no British institution has been able to make a go out of investment banking?

All serious attempts at it - SG Warburg, Kleinwort Benson, NatWest Markets, and now BZW - have foundered essentially on the same thing - they were in the end just too small to succeed. When push came to shove, no one was prepared to invest capital on the scale necessary to make them work. The City has flourished not on its British content, but on foreign capital, institutions and management systems.

Investment banking in its modern form is largely an American creation. The dominant "bulge bracket" houses of New York obtain their bulge from the powerful domestic franchise that the American economy gives them. Furthermore, deregulation came much earlier to Wall Street than the City, giving the Americans an almost unassailable lead in establishing uni-

fied corporate cultures from the blend of different activities that make up an investment bank.

By contrast, there is little in the way of domestic franchise to feed the City. Europe as a single market is still too fragmented and many cultured to provide anything approaching the level of support the American economy gives to Wall Street. Those that succeed in the City must do so on the international stage. Caught between the big global players and the small niche operators, the medium sized British investment bank is finding it progressively harder to compete.

As national financial markets transform into global ones, houses like BZW have found themselves caught in a vicious circle of decline. Pay is the major cost in an investment bank and is the primary reason why people want to work in them. To tempt top people with the right areas of expertise away from the bulge bracket firms, BZW found itself having to pay a premium.

Its already unfavourable rates of return would be further damaged in the process and it found itself slipping further and further behind. Inevitably, Martin Taylor, chief executive of Barclays, came to the conclusion that he could not risk the capital necessary to turn the situation - that BZW would be better off as part of a group

with complementary franchises in Europe or the United States so that it could share in their economies of scale.

Put like this, the arguments appear so compelling that it perhaps seems odd it took Barclays so long to see them. It is only a year ago that Mr Taylor hired Bill Harrison, a no nonsense Brummie from Robert Fleming, with the brief of doing what he now thinks impossible, or too high risk to attempt - build a globally competitive investment bank. Just six months ago, Mr Taylor was still refusing to concede defeat. Two events have intervened since then. First, the fall from grace of National Westminster Bank, hung out to dry by its own attempts to build a global investment bank, NatWest Markets. After all he has achieved at Barclays, Mr Taylor can hardly be blamed for thinking "too, er". Second is the merger of Smith Barney and Salomon Brothers in the US. The squeeze BZW is already feeling can only get worse.

All the same, Mr Harrison was never really given the chance to make it work. Perhaps his next port of call should be one of big Continental banks, many of whom seem prepared to invest what it takes to succeed in investment banking. What a shame we are all too scared in Britain to do the same.

## Transmission merger brings a single ITV company closer

The creation of a single ITV company came a step closer yesterday with news that the network's transmission facilities are to be consolidated. As *Cathy Newman* reports, streamlining the existing 12 programme transmission centres into fewer than four is likely to cost up to 200 jobs, and could save ITV £15m.

ITV's move to rationalise the way it transmits its programmes reflects the concentration of ownership within the network, and supports suggestions from some observers that ITV may eventually be controlled by a single owner.

A working party has been established to examine how efficiencies could be extracted from the transmission network, and findings are to be presented to key decision-makers at the next meeting of the ITV Council, the network's sovereign body.

Industry sources estimate that around 200 jobs could be eliminated by the rationalisation.

ITV would invest some of the money saved - which insiders involved in the working party say could amount to £15m - in its digital terrestrial television output. Extra funds are also likely to be poured into programming, which ITV is keen to improve in its battle to maintain audience share against the cable and satellite companies.

The saving would be particularly welcome for ITV, which is to lose the £70m fee it receives from Channel 4 each year.

Outside London, where GMTV, Carlton and LWT share programme transmission facilities, each of the franchises has its own centre, despite the fact that Carlton Communications, Granada Group, Scottish Media Group and United News & Media own 12 franchises between them.

A spokesman for ITV Network Centre yesterday confirmed that the ultimate aim was to replace the 12 centres with one or two and said: "There are a group of ITV companies which are now controlled by far fewer owners, who recognise they are duplicating costs unnecessarily."

Industry observers also pointed out that ITV's 12 trans-

mission centres were excessive when compared to Channel 4 or the BBC, which both use a single location to transmit their programmes.

Gerry Robinson, chairman of Granada Group, said in June that the ITV companies would merge into a single group within a decade.

Over the past four years, the pace of change has been hectic, as ITV faces up to the need for greater consolidation in the face of competition from Channel 4 and 5, and cable and satellite television.

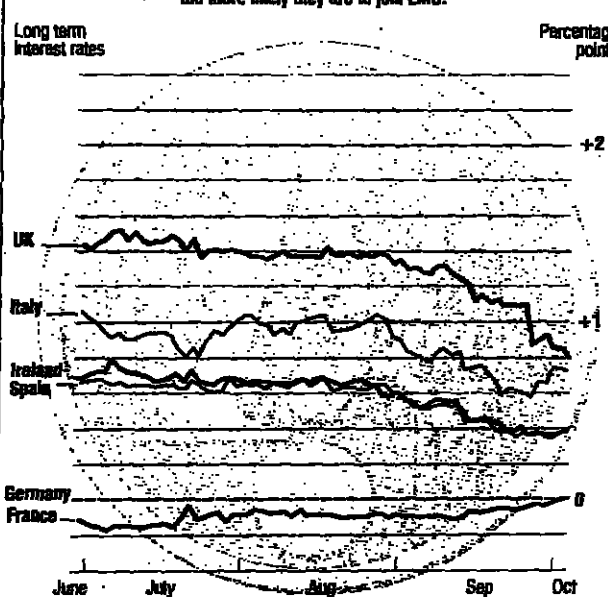
In 1993, the 15 franchises were awarded to 14 separate holding companies. Only three independent operators now remain, and one of those - Ulster Television - is looking increasingly vulnerable to a bid from Scottish Media.

So far this year, there have been three ITV mergers. Most recently, United - which owns the Anglia and Meridian franchises - snapped up HTV.

Scottish Media recently bought Grampian and Granada made its long-awaited swoop on Yorkshire-Tyne Tees Television. Granada also owns LWT, and could, according to some City analysts, make a move on Border Television at a later stage.

## Who will be in EMU? The financial markets' view

The closer other countries get to the red baseline (Germany) the more likely they are to join EMU.



TOWARDS EMU: If the line moves towards the German base line it means investors no longer require such a high premium for holding that country's bonds compared to German ones, because they are confident the currency won't devalue against the mark. In other words, they think that country will be locked into a single currency with Germany in 10 years time.

AWAY FROM EMU: However, if they think the country won't be in EMU, that it will have higher inflation, and that there is a risk of a future devaluation against the mark, then they will demand an extra premium for holding that country's bonds, so the line will move away from the base.

## When will EMU start? The City Analysts' View.

The Independent asked analysts from: Niko Europe, Paine Webber, ABN Amro, JP Morgan, Deutsche Morgan Grenfell, Salomon Brothers, Goldman Sachs, HSBC, James Capel, UBS what probability they placed on EMU starting on time.

Probability EMU starts on time:	79%	(76% last week)
Probability EMU is delayed:	16%	(18% last week)
Probability EMU never happens:	5%	(6% last week)

## EMU hopes raised

Italian political crises aside, confidence that European monetary union will go ahead on time has taken an upswing. The recent leak suggesting the UK will join in the first wave made little difference to sentiment.

Though the leak was supported yesterday by Labour's Peter Mandelson, speaking on Irish television, the Treasury later backtracked, saying Labour's position had not changed. Gwyn Hooche at James Capel said both Germany and France are more clearly committed to meeting budget deficit targets. Germany now estimates that its 1997 half-year deficit will be 3.1 per cent of GDP. In France, the Socialists, initially resistant to targets, now predict they will achieve a 3 per cent deficit in 1998.

Members of the Italian communist party are threatening to derail the government's tough 1998 budget if proposed pension reforms go through, unsettling the markets. However, Michael Lewis at Deutsche Morgan Grenfell said: "The Italians will not allow this crucial budget to be knocked off course."

-Sameena Ahmad

## IN BRIEF

## Mobile numbers will be portable from 1999

Mobile phone users will be able to keep their number when they switch to different networks by the end of next year, under plans revealed by Don Cruickshank, the telecommunications regulator, yesterday. After a long running consultation process with the four mobile companies, Vodafone, Cellnet, Orange and One2One, Mr Cruickshank ruled that operators should introduce number portability from 1 January 1999. Vodafone, which had pushed for a seven-month delay to the process, said the decision was "disappointing", though Orange had pushed strongly for a speedier introduction. The companies were given until 17 October to make a formal response.

## Minimum wage warning

Representatives of more than 1,200 companies in the engineering sector yesterday warned the Low Pay Commission about potentially damaging "knock-on" effects of the national minimum wage. The statutory pay limit could mean that employees would seek to maintain wage differentials and some companies would grant such increases in order to attract, motivate and keep highly skilled staff, the Engineering Employers' Federation argued. In its submission yesterday to the Commission, the Federation said that the statutory minimum should be updated in line with economic circumstances, not annually on the basis of a formula linked to average earnings or inflation.

## Alarms offer on the cards

Shares in Tinstall Group rose almost 20 per cent yesterday after news that senior managers were looking at the possibility of making an offer for the alarm systems firm. The company said the interest by senior managers was "at a very preliminary stage".

## Seton finance chief leaves

Seton Healthcare, the healthcare group which makes Woodward's gripe water, said yesterday that Roger Humphreys, its finance director, is to resign. He leaves at the end of October to be replaced by Paul Sanders who joins from Arthur Andersen.

## Tomkins to buy bakery

Tomkins, the food products company, is to buy Golden West bakery, which supplies McDonald's, for £70m. Golden West, which also makes syrups and ketchups, recorded sales of £69m last year.

## Arcadian talks continue

Arcadian International, the hotels and leisure group, said yesterday that talks with a potential bidder were continuing. Chief Executive Robert Breare announced that profits for the six months to July had more than doubled to £1.1m.

## Pace lifted on chief appointment

Shares in Pace Micro Technology, which have almost halved since the television set-top box maker floated last year, recovered 3p to 60.5p yesterday after the company finally appointed a new chief executive.

Malcolm Miller, European chief executive of Segn Enterprises, will fill the void left by Barry Rubery, the company's founder who quit last February.

Pace, which came to the market last June at 172p, has been in the doldrums for some time. Digital broadcasting, which will lead to the introduction of hundreds of new TV channels, has been

slow to take off around the world, delaying orders for Pace's set-top boxes which are used to decode TV pictures.

Mr Rubery's departure coincided with a profits warning. Steve Jones, Pace's finance director and co-founder, also resigned in June.

Mr Miller has been at the Japanese computer games manufacturer since 1994, and is to take his post at Pace before the end of the year. He spent 16 years at Amstrad, the computer and electronics company, and became managing director in 1992. Peter Morgan, chairman of Pace,

said: "He has expertise in the fast-moving competitive electronic retailing field and previous experience as managing director of a public company."

Mr Miller, who is 42, has successfully integrated Segn's consumer division, and has been credited with returning it to profit. At Amstrad, Mr Miller was largely responsible for the acquisitions of Viglen and Dancall. David Hood, another co-founder of Pace who had been sharing the chief executive's role with Mr Morgan, will become director of technology.

-Cathy Newman

## Bass faces Czech brewing battle

Bass, the drinks giant which is keen to expand overseas, having bid for Carlsberg-Tetley blocked by Margaret Beckett in the UK, now faces a bitter battle with the Japanese bank Nomura in its attempt to grow its Czechoslovakian brewing business.

Bass bought its first Czech brewer four years ago and is now trying to take control of Radegast, the second biggest brewer in the country. Bass has built up a 33.4 per cent stake in the company, but yesterday a Czech bank sold its stake to a financial company controlled by Nomura.

Investment partner Postnovi Bank (IPB) and its partner Pruni Investition have sold their combined 15.5 per cent stake in Radegast to IMP Finance, which is controlled by Nomura.

It emerged a month ago that IMP Finance wants to merge Radegast with the largest brewery in the country, Pilsener Brewery. Bass has not been informed of the deal. Combined market share of the merged company would total 41 per cent. Bass last week filed a lawsuit against IPB over alleged breaches of nine areas of the Czech commercial code.

## Foreign Exchange Rates

Country	Spot	1 month	3 months
UK	100.00	100.00	100.00
Australia	2.2133	2.2154	2.2175
Canada	0.6825	0.6835	0.6845
Denmark	6.4603	6.4613	6.4623
France	6.5595	6.5605	6.5615
Germany	1.9364	1.9374	1.9384
Italy	1.9364	1.9374	1.9384
Japan	161.01	161.01	161.01
Netherlands	2.2037	2.2047	2.2057
Sweden	8.4664	8.4674	8.4684
Switzerland	1.4835	1.4845	1.4855
US	1.5357	1.5367	1.5377

## Interest Rates

Country	Rate
UK	5.00%
Germany	4.50%
France	4.50%
Italy	4.50%
Japan	5.50%
Netherlands	4.50%
Sweden	4.50%
Switzerland	4.50%
US	5.00%

## Bond Yields

Country	3m	6m	1yr	2yr	3yr	5yr	10yr
Australia	4.50%	4.50%	4.50%	4.50%	4.50%	4.50%	4.50%
Canada	4.50%	4.50%	4.50%	4.50%	4.50%	4.50%	4.50%
Denmark	4.50%	4.50%	4.50%	4.50%	4.50%	4.50%	4.50%
France	4.50%	4.50%	4.50%	4.50%	4.50%	4.50%	4.50%
Germany	4.50%	4.50%	4.50%	4.50%	4.50%	4.50%	4.50%
Italy	4.50%	4.50%	4.50%	4.50%	4.50%	4.50%	4.50%
Japan	4.50%	4.50%	4.50%	4.50%	4.50%	4.50%	4.50%
Netherlands	4.50%	4.50%	4.50%	4.50%	4.50%	4.50%	4.50%
Sweden	4.50%	4.50%	4.50%	4.50%	4.50%	4.50%	4.50%
Switzerland	4.50%	4.50%	4.50%	4.50%	4.50%	4.50%	4.50%
US	4.50%	4.50%	4.50%	4.50%	4.50%	4.50%	4.50%

## Money Market Rates

Overnight	1 week	1 month	3 months	6 months	1 year
UK	5.00%	5.00%	5.00%	5.00%	5.00%
Germany	4.50%	4.50%	4.50%	4.50%	4.50%
France	4.50%	4.50%	4.50%	4.50%	4.50%
Italy	4.50%	4.50%	4.50%	4.50%	4.50%
Japan	5.50%	5.50%	5.50%	5.50%	5.50%
Netherlands	4.50%	4.50%	4.50%	4.50%	4.50%
Sweden	4.50%	4.50%	4.50%	4.50%	4.50%
Switzerland	4.50%	4.50%	4.50%	4.50%	4.50%
US	5.00%	5.00%	5.00%	5.00%	5.00%

## Liffe Financial Futures

Contract	Settlement	High	Low	Open
Crude Oil	22.18	22.14	22.03	22.18
Gold	382.00	382.00	382.00	382.00
US 10 Year Bond	102.00	102.00	102.00	102.00
US 30 Year Bond	102.00	102.00	102.00	102.00
US 5 Year Bond	102.00	102.00	102.00	102.00
US 1 Year Bond	102.00	102.00	102.00	102.00
US 6 Month Bond	102.00	102.00	102.00	102.00
US 3 Month Bond	102.00	102.00	102.00	102.00
US 1 Month Bond	102.00	102.00	102.00	102.00
US 1 Week Bond	102.00	102.00	102.00	102.00
US 1 Day Bond	102.00	102.00	102.00	102.00

## Liffe FTSE 100 Index Option

Contract	Settlement	High	Low	Open
Crude Oil	22.18	22.14	22.03	22.18
Gold	382.00	382.00	382.00	382.00
US 10 Year Bond	102.00	102.00	102.00	102.00
US 30 Year Bond	102.00	102.00	102.00	102.00
US 5 Year Bond	102.00	102.00	102.00	102.00
US 1 Year Bond	102.00	102.00	102.00	102.00
US 6 Month Bond	102.00	102.00	102.00	102.00
US 3 Month Bond	102.00	102.00	102.00	102.00
US 1 Month Bond	102.00	102.00	102.00	102.00
US 1 Week Bond	102.00	102.00	102.00	102.00
US 1 Day Bond	102.00	102.00	102.00	102.00

## Industrial Metals

Commodity	Settlement	High	Low	Open
Aluminum	1.55	1.55	1.55	1.55
Copper	1.55	1.55	1.55	1.55
Gold	382.00	382.00	382.00	382.00
Iron	1.55	1.55	1.55	1.55
Nickel	1.55	1.55	1.55	1.55
Palladium	1.55	1.55	1.55	1.55
Platinum	1.55	1.55	1.55	1.55
Silver	1.55	1.55	1.55	1.55
Tin	1.55	1.55	1.55	1.55
Zinc	1.55	1.55	1.55	1.55

## Precious Metals

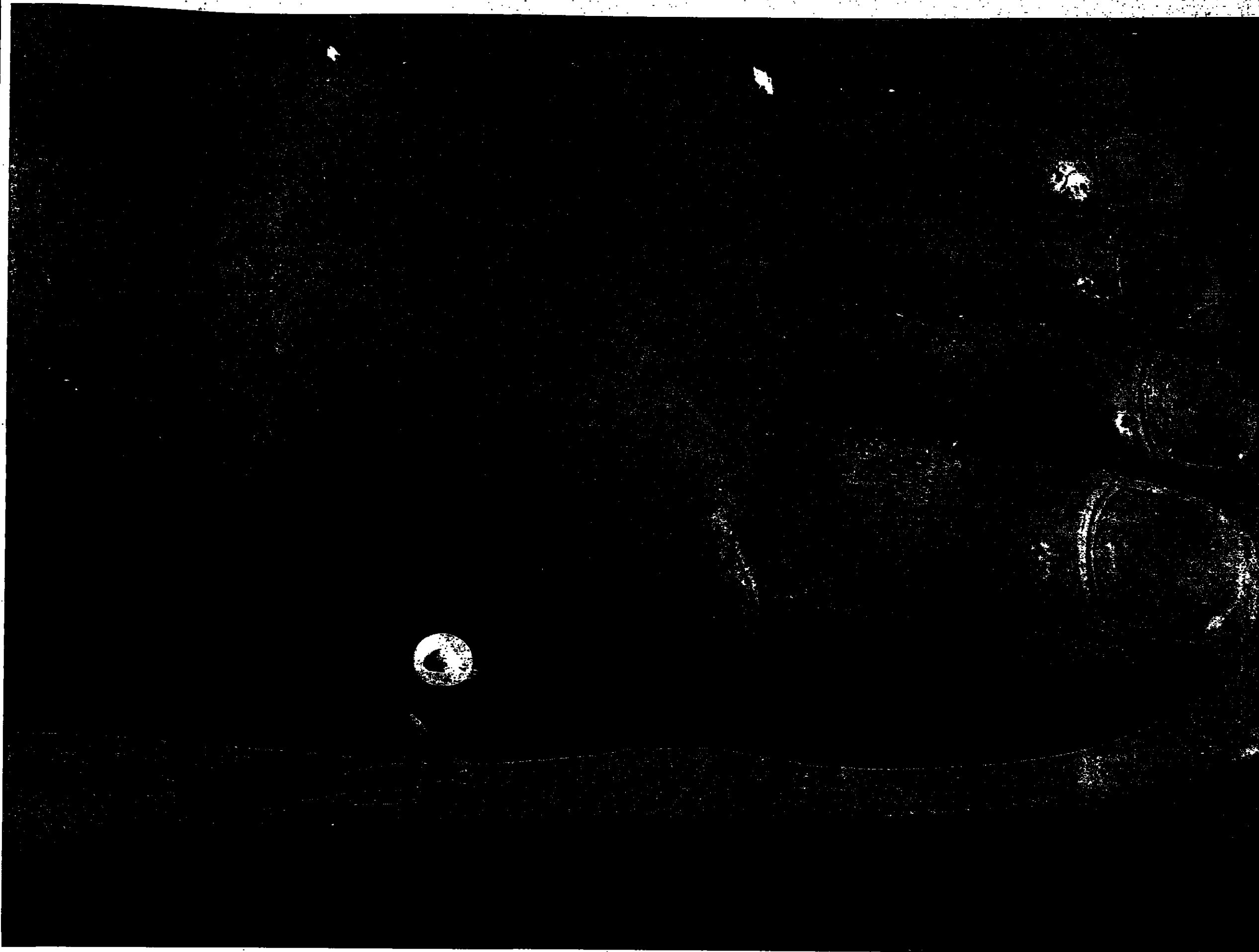
Commodity	Settlement	High	Low	Open
Aluminum	1.55	1.55	1.55	1.55
Copper	1.55	1.55	1.55	1.55
Gold	382.00	382.00	382.00	382.00
Iron	1.55	1.55	1.55	1.55
Nickel	1.55	1.55	1.55	1.55
Palladium	1.55	1.55	1.55	1.55
Platinum	1.55	1.55	1.55	1.55
Silver	1.55	1.55	1.55	1.55
Tin	1.55	1.55	1.55	1.55
Zinc	1.55	1.55	1.55	1.55

## Agricultural

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40	41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49	50	51	52	53	54	55	56	57	58	59	60	61	62	63	64	65	66	67	68	69	70	71	72	73	74	75	76	77	78	79	80	81	82	83	84	85	86	87	88	89	90	91	92	93	94	95	96	97	98	99	100
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# 26/THE BIG PICTURE

Focus on the institution that coloured our view of the world



A selection of photographs from *The National Geographic Society - 100 Years of Adventure and Discovery*, an updated centennial history of the society by CDB Bryan.

**Top:** Toes of the world's largest sitting Buddha, carved out of cliff face overlooking the convergence of three rivers at Leshan, China, in the hope that it would protect boatmen from the treacherous currents.

**Left:** An Afghan girl at a refugee camp in Pakistan where she fled in 1985 seeking shelter from the fighting in her homeland.

**Right:** A 1928 autochrome of a Tibetan dancer playing the role of the King of Hell.

The full-colour illustrated book, published by Abrams, is priced at £34.95, and will be available in the shops this month.



## Orange Town

BT      Cellnet      Orange

£3.97      £6.46      £3.12

BT      Cellnet      Orange

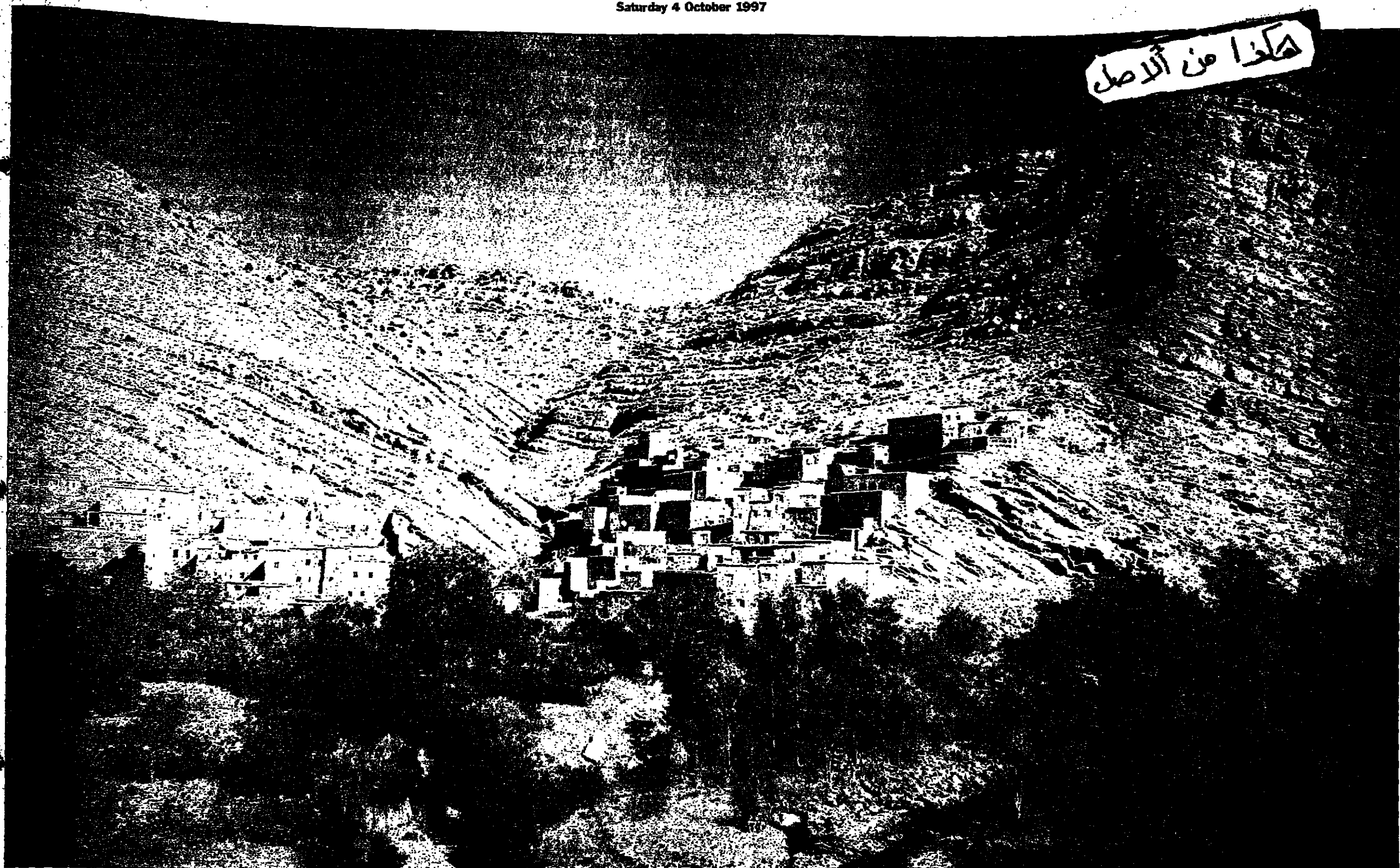
orange

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**Saturday 4 October 1997**



Between a rock and a lush place: from even the smallest of streams the Berbers of the High Atlas Mountains have created green valleys. Above these perch their organically constructed, mud-brick villages

Photograph: Harriet O'Brien

# High society

**The Berber tribes of Morocco's Atlas Mountains have conjured verdant valleys out of a stark and spectacular landscape. So when you find such oases of greenery, you may think you're in a close approximation to paradise. But, says Harriet O'Brien, watch out for the company you are with.**

It looked, absurdly, as if we were walking straight into the Garden of Eden itself. There we were in a pink and rocky wilderness in the heights of the High Atlas Mountains in southern Morocco. We followed a trickle of running water and, as it got broader, wound our way down into a sudden miracle of greenery: a valley bursting with fig trees, pomegranates and tiny fields of maize. We were accompanied by

a constant gurgle from a clever combination of irrigation ditches, bringing life to a barren place. Apart from the odd feud over water rights, the local people say that little disturbs the tranquillity here: there's practically no crime, not much violence (certainly no drunkenness; this is a good Muslim area), and, so they claim, few serpents.

But perhaps they're reckoning without the tourists.

We had just finished peeling off our walking boots and examining our blisters, tropics of the day's challenge, when the boy and girl racers of the adventure travel world swept up. From about 6.30 that evening the mountain bikers straggled in, all Lycra, sweat and Oakley sunshades, collapsing exhausted into the gîte in the little Berber village of Wsnyrikt. Hikers and bikers, we quickly discovered, create their own uneasy culture clash. Particularly when they are squeezed into a confined space in a remote Moroccan village whose population they have just swollen by nearly a quarter.

Space was one thing, attitude quite another.

"Chicken and children are fair game," Baz announced later that evening. "You don't have to give way to them. But you shouldn't," he added, "slap the rump of

any mules. That would be antisocial."

Baz (Sebastian) was the British tour guide to the group of 16 mountain bikers, and was briefing his team for day two of their 10-day trip. Meanwhile, squashed together, sitting on the floor at the far end of the gite's overcrowded dining- and sleeping-area, we walkers listened and looked on with indignation. Baz, we appreciated, was speaking in slight jest, but we couldn't help feeling that beneath this attempt at humour there was a jarring lack of respect for the local community. And, what was worse, privately we realised that we ourselves were not above reproach.

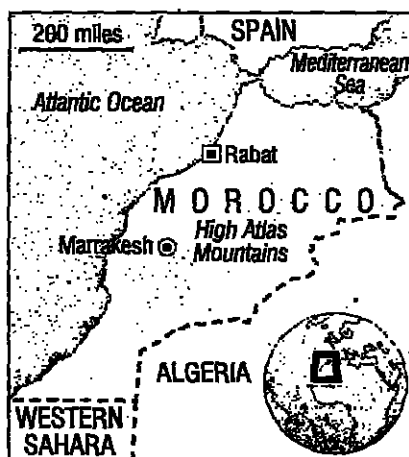
Outwardly, however, we clung precariously to the moral high ground. We had booked with the same tour operator as the cyclists. But as walkers we liked to think of ourselves as socially and environmentally sensitive travellers: a group of nine who had signed up for five days' hiking in a starkly spectacular landscape, leaving (as green campaigners urge) only footprints.

It was to be, so the Exodus Travels brochure and itinerary had implied, a holiday on the comfortable side of basic: four nights sleeping inside, or on the roof—under the stars—of a Berber home turned gite. This had the comparative luxury of two Asian-style loos, two cold showers and,

wonderfully unexpected, its own home-made *hammam* – a Moroccan version of a Turkish bath-house, with a hot-water barrel heated by charcoal lit beneath the floor.

Numbers would, the itinerary had stated, be limited to fewer than 12. We were to spend several days getting right away from it all, staying in an area without roads or electricity and walking five to seven hours a day around the contours of one of northern Africa's most geologically stunning areas.

Trekking (and indeed cycling) in the



High Atlas Mountains has become northern Africa's hybrid answer to the Himalayan hike and the Tuscan walking tour. And with reason. Not only is this a cheap and fairly convenient area to reach (air fares to Marrakesh, a two-hour bus ride from the mountain range, are a lot lower than those to Asia), it also offers a staggering landscape of awe-inspiring panoramas; strange, vividly coloured rock formations; and, of course, magically green valleys above which nestle little mud-brick Berber villages.

All of which sound like great ingredients for a challenging fresh-air holiday. The reality, though, can be gruelling for those who, literally, don't have the stomach or time to acclimatise to some rough going.

For a start, the local Berber people rightly think you're nuts as you clomp off, walking through the heat of the day to arid, empty spaces. It's tough terrain, too: lose your concentration as to where you're placing each foot and you could stumble badly over the rocks, doing yourself a serious injury in the middle of nowhere. And then there's the harsh, unrelenting sun: our group went down like nimpins as heatstroke exacerbated any queasy unfamiliarity with the local food.

But if you survive all this in an upright position, you get a tremendous sense of

**Continued next page**

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**24/Tony Adams**  
**interview**

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# THE ONE

# SMOKING CAUSES CANCER

Chief Medical Officers' Warning  
1 mg Tar 0.1 mg Nicotine



# 2/CITY BREAKS

## 48 hours in the life of ... Lisbon

You need a break – and a short-cut to the soul of a city. This week, Simon Calder checks out a capital caught between centuries.

### Why go now?

Because the fragile façades of Lisbon, which endow the Portuguese capital with such soul, are crumbling rapidly beneath an onslaught of modernity: while half the city is being dug up for the new subway, the other half is being refurbished for next year's Expo. New, cheap flights have opened up the city as an accessible weekend destination. And it's one Continental capital where you don't have to adjust your watch.

### Beam down

The lowest fare to Lisbon is likely to be on AB Airlines (0345 464748) from Gatwick; flying next weekend, the cheapest return is £131 including tax. Portugal (0990 502048) flies from Manchester, but not at weekends; leaving next Friday and returning on Monday costs £201. British Airways (0345 222111) and TAP Air Portugal (0171-828 0262) fly from Heathrow.

### Get your bearings

The helpful tourist office outside the customs hall at the airport (open 6am-2am) will provide you with a map of the city. The Aero-Bus runs to the centre between 7am and 8.40pm daily; as Lisbon airport is so close in, a taxi costs only £4.

The city sprawls along the north shore of the Tagus, but you need focus on only three basic areas. The flat part in the middle is Baixa (pronounced *bye-sha*). Rising to the west is Bairro Alto (approximately *bi-roo alu*), and to the east Alfama.

### Check in

Aim for the centre. Bairro Alto and Baixa have plenty of modest options; in the former, the Pensao Londres (rua Dom Pedro V 53, 00 351 1 346 2203) charges 6,200-9,200 escudos for a double room, corresponding to £21-£31. In Baixa, the Pensao Insulana at rua da Assunção 52 (00 351 1 342 3131) offers good value at 8,500 (£29) per night, including bathroom and TV. Breakfast is included in all these rates.

### Take a ride

Tram 28 is one of Europe's great little journeys – an exercise in kinetic eccentricity as it sways up improbable gradients and squeezes through impossible gaps. Summer visitors missed out on the full glory of the route, but track repair work has now finished. For 150 escudos (about 50 pence), ride the whole, hilariously convoluted journey from Prazeres, west of Bairro Alto, to the square named Martim Moniz (north of Baixa).

### Take a hike

The tram reveals Lisbon to be defiantly three-dimensional. From its eastern terminus, steer a southerly course to touch down amid the swirl of traffic around Baixa. Stay on the same heading, and soon you reach the foot of an Eiffel-designed lift called the Elevador Santa Justa. It hauls you from humdrum sea level to a higher plane. Sadly, subway work means you can't step deftly from the viewing platform into Bairro Alto; instead, descend again and wend your way there on a warm autumnal walk.

### Lunch on the run

By the time you huff to the top end of rua Garrett, you'll need a coffee and pastry. The fine old Café A Brasileira, half hidden by subway hoardings, is a grand hall of age-darkened wood and fresh, young faces reflected in a million mirrors. Lisbon's intelligentsia natters here for hours.

### Cultural afternoon

Lisbon's chief civic characteristic is nattering in cafés, but there is also a streak of diligence – manifested at the Museu da Agua. Take a taxi to avoid a long, frustrating walk in an area where few seem to know of its existence. The reward is a palace of engineering, a frenzy of brass and steel in a former pumping station built in the days when municipal magnificence was mandatory.

### Window shopping

The funniest piece of public transport in Lisbon is the Elevador da Bica, in which a lop-sided tram shuffles up and down a steep gradient. Near the top end is Work in Progress, an intriguing combination of clothes store, hairdresser and (possibly crucial as dusk gathers strength) a jolly bar.

### An aperitif

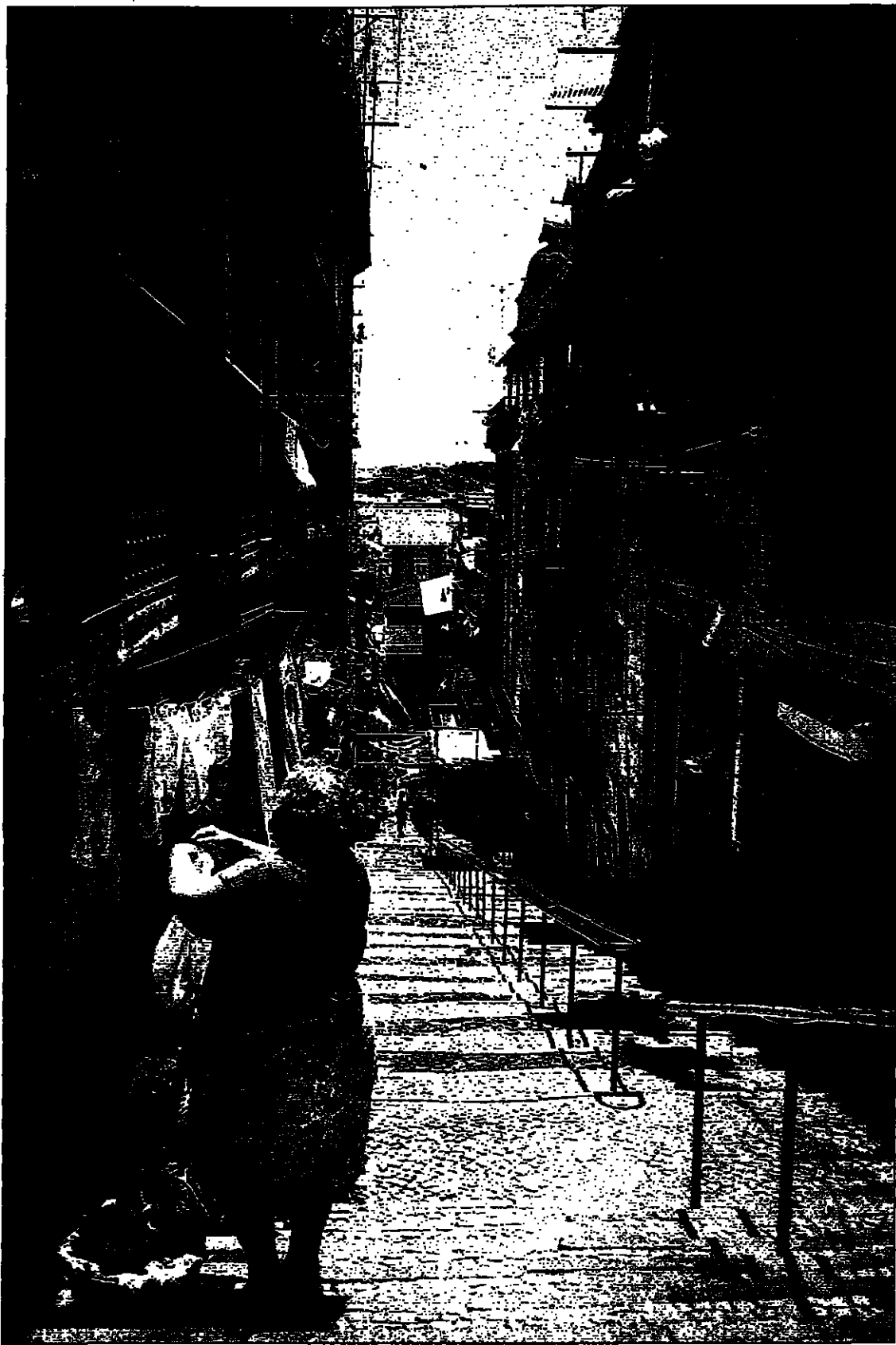
Yet another Elevador – this one named Gloria – elevates you to the Solar do Vinho do Porto (Port Wine Institute). Subside into the deep leather armchairs of this handsome chamber of commerce, and choose something white and chilled from among hundreds of varieties of port.

### Demure dinner

For quiet elegance, best stay at home; Bairro Alto on a Saturday night is not a peaceful place to be. But it possesses a staggering selection of restaurants on and around rua do Diário de Notícias.

### Sunday morning: go to church

But don't go in. Lisbon's cathedral (which yesterday's tram had to swerve to avoid) is mostly memorable for the views from its south side over mottled terracotta roofs towards the broad Tagus – spanned, in the distance, by the 25 April Bridge, doing its best to mimic San Francisco's Golden Gate.



Defiantly three-dimensional Lisbon, a city with a streak of diligence

Photograph: Simon Calder

### A walk in the park

The stridently ramped nature of Lisbon means its principle open space, named in honour of a British monarch, is guaranteed to yield grand prospects. An heroic new sculpture presides over the vast Eduardo

VII park, prime picnicking territory that shelves gently down towards Baixa.

### The icing on the cake

Tram 15 whisks you out west to Belem. Some misguided tourists come here for the

Archaeological Museum or Jeronimo Monastery. But everyone eventually ends up at Pasteis de Belem, a patisserie where

pastel (the sole product: an exotic custard pie with attitude and icing sugar) is nautical and more-ish, like the city itself.

## HIGH SOCIETY

### From previous page

satisfaction. Those of us who retained the energy were taken over by lunar-like landscapes to far-flung desert lakes and waterfalls. We walked for miles through scenery untamed by mankind, clambering through great canyons of boulders, weaving our way across aromatic plains of wild thyme where swooping house martins and silky lizards provided rare signs of life. And, just when we thought we'd sweated our way well beyond reach of civilisation, lunch could come trotting past on the back of a mule. About half-an-hour further on we would find a meal impec-

cably laid out on a rug, with the mule driver brewing up peppermint tea which he would ceremoniously serve in a polished pewter teapot. This exercise in neat planning and delicate politeness was, we rapidly appreciated, one of the advantages of joining an organised tour.

In fact, it might all have been a happy experience were it not for the 16 mountain bikers and the feel-bad factor that came in their wake. Back at the gite we snarled at them with a dog-in-the-manger-like attitude as they tripped over our walking boots and encroached on their jealously guarded sleeping spaces on the

roof. We blenched at the sanitary implications of such numbers, and we sneered at their shiny Lycra thighs – how inappropriate in a cover-up country like Morocco.

And then we realised that, probably, they were just like us: tourists in search of a bit of adventure, wanting some understanding of the people and the places they were travelling through.

It was simply that, owing to the oversight of a tour operator back in Britain, there were too many of us. Lumped together we became an invading army, threatening the finely balanced ecology

of an idyllic valley – one that generations of gentle Berber people had created out of the same dramatic, unforgiving landscape that lay beyond.

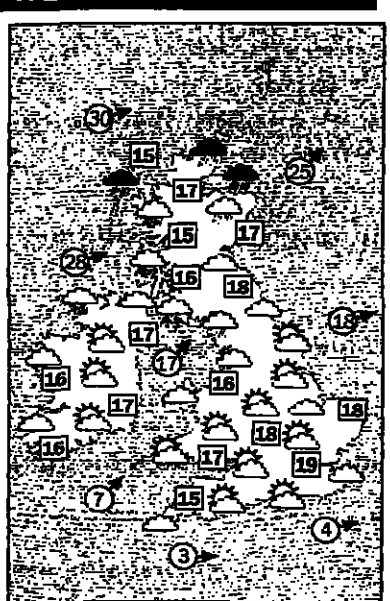
Harriet O'Brien paid £535 for a seven-day trip to Morocco through Exodus Travels (0181-675 5550). The price included flights, three nights' accommodation in Marrakesh and a five-day, all-inclusive trek in the High Atlas Mountains. Exodus Travels also offers two-week treks in the High Atlas, as do Explore Worldwide (01252 344 161); Headwater Holidays (01606 48699); Sherpa Expeditions (0181-577 2717); and

Worldwide Journeys (0171-381 8638), which also has seven-day trips. Best of Morocco (01380 828333) organises three-day hikes in the High Atlas.

For independent travellers, Marrakesh is the best gateway. In October, Royal Air Maroc (0171-439 4361) has daily flights from Heathrow via Casablanca for £360 including tax. For the same fare, GB Airways (a British Airways affiliate, 0345 222111) flies from Gatwick on Tuesday and Friday via Gibraltar.

Moroccan Information and Advice Centre, 61 Golborne Road, London W10 5NR (0181-960 6654).

## WEATHER



Lighting-up Times			
Today	Tomorrow	Today	Tomorrow
London 6:31pm	6:29pm	London 7:09am	7:09am
Bristol 6:31pm	6:29pm	Bristol 7:17am	7:17am
Birmingham 6:33pm	6:30pm	Birmingham 7:15am	7:15am
Manchester 6:35pm	6:32pm	Manchester 7:13am	7:13am
Newcastle 6:35pm	6:32pm	Newcastle 7:13am	7:13am
Glasgow 6:45pm	6:42pm	Glasgow 7:30am	7:30am
Belfast 6:52pm	6:50pm	Belfast 7:35am	7:35am

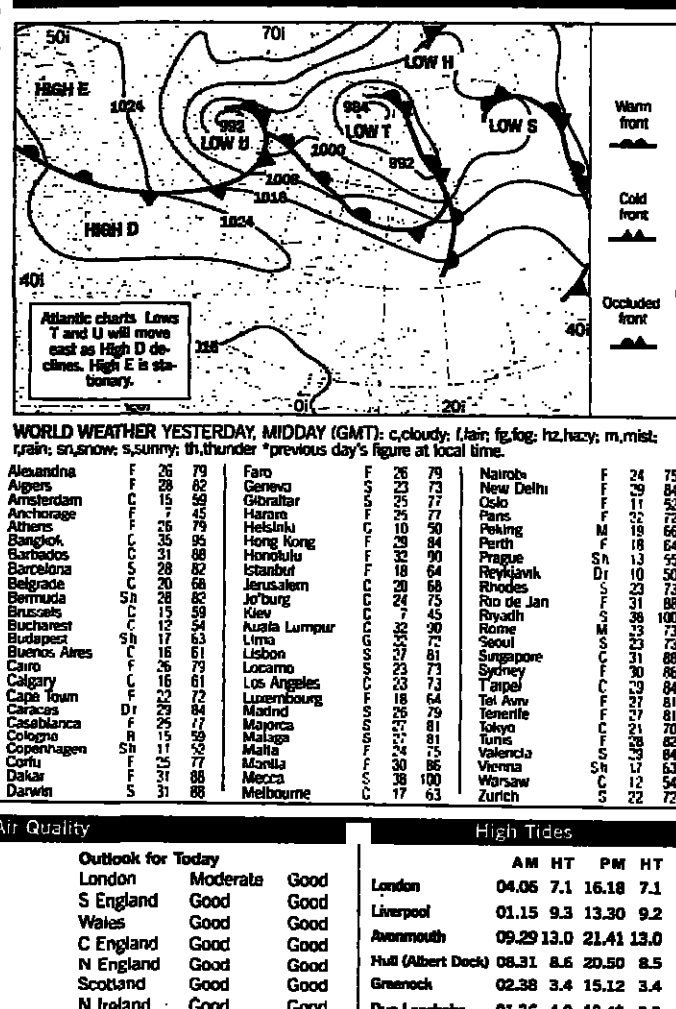
## The British Isles

### Outlook For Today

It will be cloudy across Scotland with hill fog and light rain or drizzle, although the south-east should stay dry. Later in the day some heavier rain will break out in the north and north-west. Northern Ireland and north-west England will have a few spots of drizzle possible. Over the hills and some coasts it will be misty. Wales and the rest of England should stay dry with some brightness. Cloud in the east and south-east will break and a little sunshine will break through in most areas. Rain over Scotland will spread across Northern Ireland and into northern England, with a few heavy bursts still possible. North-west Scotland will turn more showery with some brightness later. Wales and the rest of England will be dry through most of the day with spells of sunshine. However, there is the threat of heavy showers or thunderstorms moving up from the south, affecting south-west England and south Wales in the evening.

Yesterday's Readings			
NO <sub>2</sub>	O <sub>3</sub>	Good	Moderate
London	Good	Good	Good
S. England	Good	Good	Good
Wales	Good	Good	Good
C. England	Good	Good	Good
N. England	Good	Good	Good
Scotland	Good	Good	Good
N. Ireland	Good	Good	Good

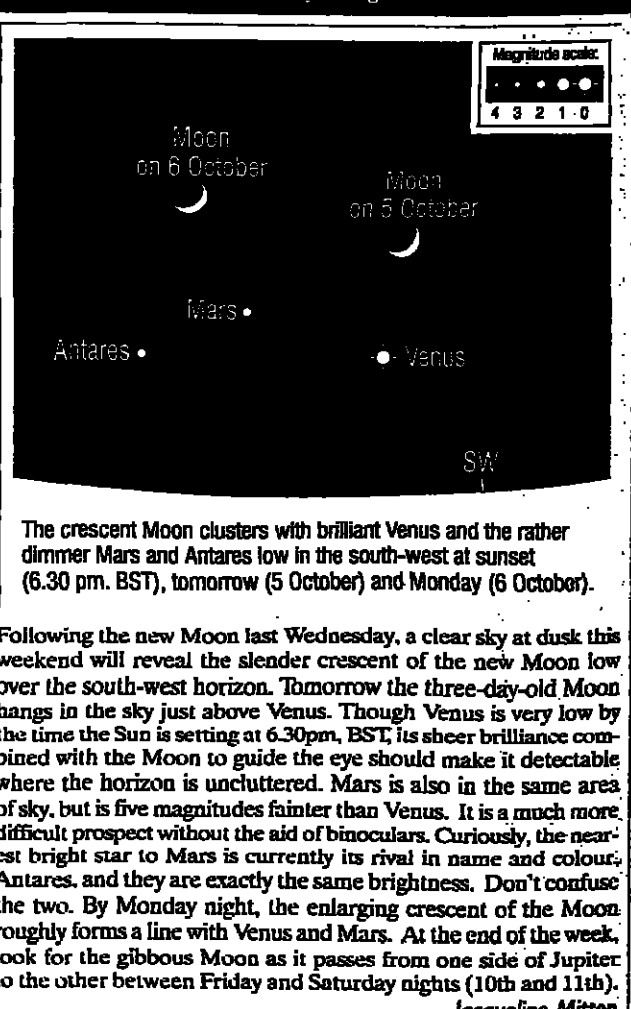
## Europe and The World



## AA Roadwatch

London, A11 Leytonstone. Lane closures at A12 roundabout until August 1998.  
London, A306 Hammersmith Bridge. Closed until January 1998.  
Surrey, M25 J8-10. Lane closures both ways until further notice.  
Bristol, M5 J18-19. Contraflow on Avonmouth Bridge until August 1998.  
Staffordshire, A50 Stoke On Trent. Major works at Meir until March 1998.  
Leicestershire, A6 Loughborough. Contraflow near M1 J24.  
Berkshire, A34 between M4 J13 Chicheley Services and Newbury (A4). Roadworks, contraflow and narrow lanes with a 40mph speed limit for the Newbury bypass work.  
Greater Manchester, A627 Bardsley. Temporary lights on Ashton Rd.  
Merseyside, A567 Bootle. Stanley Rd closed northbound until further notice.  
Tyne & Wear, A19 Newcastle area. Roadworks at Killingworth.  
West Yorkshire, M1 J47. Major long-term roadworks.  
Bucks, M40 J1a-3. Roadworks with contraflow J1a (M25) and J3.  
Out and about with AA Roadwatch call 0330 442 for the latest local and national traffic news. Source: The Automobile Association. Calls charged at 50p per minute at all times inc VAT.

## The Sky at Night



The crescent Moon clusters with brilliant Venus and the rather dimmer Mars and Antares low in the south-west at sunset (6.30 pm, BST), tomorrow (5 October) and Monday (6 October).



## A pressing engagement



Against a backdrop of medieval, overgrown castles and breathtaking valleys, the grape harvest has begun in Alsace. Roy Kershaw put in a vintage performance.

By night, with floodlights oozing halos in the haze around its towers and walls, Riquewihr looked the part: a perfectly preserved medieval town. And inside the gates, despite the hive of activity up the cobbled Grand Rue, its restaurants serving *baeckeoffa* and *tartes flambee* added the finishing touches.

The air was smoky autumnal but still T-shirt warm and, as has happened every October for perhaps 2,000 years, over everything hung the heady, sweet smell of newly fermenting wine. People nibbled fresh walnuts, and every glass seemed filled with bubbling, milky *neier stasser* - wine from the grapes picked a few days before. In Alsace the vendange was once again in full swing.

The Alsatian Route des Vins winds its way 100 miles or so from near Strasbourg down past Colmar and between the west bank of the Rhine and the soaring escarpment of the Vosges mountains. It looks as wine country should, with scores of ancient villages picture-postcard pretty. Any one of

them would be a pleasure to visit, but Riquewihr, at the heart of it all, is something else again.

It sits cramped inside its ring of medieval walls with scarcely a stone younger than the 16th century. There are mazes of alleys between carved and timbered houses. There are flowers everywhere. Riquewihr may not be big, but you can lose a whole day there. In the Thieves Tower you can view the medieval torture chamber. The headquarters of Hugel et Fils, founded in 1639 (family wine firms seldom come older) will have you reaching for a fresh roll of film.

From the top edge of the vineyards the dense Vosges forest, full of deer and wild boar, rises in one sweep to 4,000ft. We set off to explore. At vendange Riquewihr wakes early and as we left the little town the first tractor-load of grapes was already coming in to start the queue for the press. It was one of those mornings of mist and mellow fruitfulness. We could not, in fact, see much, but following the Sambach back towards the heights we filled our rucksacks with sweet chestnuts that were falling down around us on to the forest floor. Later, we found ceps.

The crests of the Vosges are serrated with old castles. The monolithic Haut-Koenigsbourg is today the most famous. Restored by Kaiser Wilhelm, it is now

a symbol of Frenchness, glaring into Germany across the Rhine plain. But the best, the most romantic, are the little-known ruins that you have to squirm your way to, or just stumble upon as they lie half-hidden in the trees.

Our map told us that somewhere in the mist was the castle of the Bilsstein. Suddenly we emerged into bright sunshine and saw the tower, engulfed by greenery, perched on a crag. It seemed to float, an island in an ocean of vapour. Clearly, few people came here. We ate our picnic lunch reclining against its sun-warmed sandstone: to our north and south were other islands, other castles hovering in a blue sky.

Above the town of Ribeauvillé - where on the first Sunday in September

the fountain runs with wine - there are no fewer than three castles. The men who had them built were not prompted by the picturesque. Since before the days of the Romans this has been a sporadic battleground. And yet the centuries of shifting borders, sometimes French, sometimes German, have resulted in an intriguing amalgam of the Gallic and the Teutonic.

Alsace manages its languages without a second thought. The local daily appears in two editions - every story, every ad, word for word the same, but one in French, the other in German. People talking in the street slip easily from one language to the other.

We observed this same linguistic ease the next day at the Schoenenbourg

vineyard. Riquewihr's most renowned Here we watched three generations of the Bronner family, plus a few friends, hard at work. The vine leaves had turned golden and the vineyard seemed to glow; the town walls at its foot shimmered in the sun. Jokingly they offered us an opportunity to help, showing us how to use the secateurs to cut clusters of some of the world's most expensive riesling grapes. After only half-an-hour our wrists were aching. Yet from dawn to dusk they had been harvesting for more than a week. Meanwhile, down in Riquewihr, every few hours a cavalcade of battered vans decked with boughs of vines, hooting and rejoicing and scattering pedestrians, poured through the narrow

streets boastfully proclaiming that their harvest was in.

Later that day we searched out the Bronners at what looked like a tiny house; inside, however, there was the gargantuan kitchen, one corner of which was taken up by a wine press. Here we were offered generous glasses of Schoenenbourg grand cru. Then M Bronner fetched six bottles from the cellar and stuck on the labels he keeps in the kitchen drawer. As a finishing touch he gave us a little discount, as wages for our work in the vineyard.

The gateway for the Alsace wine region is Strasbourg; Eurostar (0345 303030) sells tickets from Waterloo via Paris. By air, Air Inter Europe flies from Heathrow.

The wrath of grapes: the backbreaking October harvest attracts old and young alike to the picturesque valleys of Alsace to gather some of the most expensive grapes in the world. Photograph: Alain Robert Harding

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In Jamaica, where cricket is a religion, it takes more than bad light to stop play  
Photograph: Glyn Griffiths



## Willow in the Windies

Fresh from a pasting in the Ashes, England expects ... to be pounded by the best pace attack in the world. But even if events don't go our way on the field in this winter's West Indies Test tour, there's no better place to suffer than the Caribbean, writes Daniel Sygne.

Cold, dark days and the present onslaught of Premiership football mean that supporters of the summer game must tearfully consign their white floppy sun hats to the recesses of their sock drawers and dream of palm-fringed cricket. Unless, that is, they make for the likes of Jamaica's Sabina Park or Trinidad's Queen's Park Oval.

Those undeterred by the fact that England's Ashes cause died on a soggy Yorkshire field back in July are now booking trips to the Caribbean this winter, where they will combine watching Test matches with a tropical beach holiday.

Of course Mike Atherton will have the more serious business of winning the five-match series against the mighty West

Indies. The 3-1 humiliation in 1994 hardly augurs well for England's hopes, but happy memories will be evoked by that series' Barbados Test when hundreds of run-fuelled Brits merrily invaded the Kensington Oval after England's historic win. And who could deny them their moment? Buoyed by the sunshine, a relentless carnival atmosphere and electric performances on the field, some England fans discovered that there is nothing quite like witnessing a cricket match in the Caribbean.

Tours for sports supporters are hardly a new concept, but they are a growing one. Travel operators are already reporting a record demand for flights: with 10,500 England supporters expected on the islands this winter, there could be a shortage of hotel beds. "We may even end up using boats in the harbour as floating hotels," warns John Snow, who was a member of the last victorious England team to tour the West Indies, back in 1968. Now running his own sports travel business in Crawley, Snow offers package deals starting at £1,455 (for 15 nights during the Second Test in Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago).

Tours are planned around the five Test matches and five one-day inter-

national, with extra days allowed for lazing on the beach or trying water sports. Die-hard fans can even opt for a ball-by-ball tour of the whole England itinerary. The cost? About £17,500 from Calypso Gold tours.

But like most package holidays, a cricket tour just wouldn't be the same without those little extras that are thrown in to keep the fans happy when they have spent the day watching England fielders chase Brian Lara's cover drives. Specialist tour operators offer a variety of action. TTC Sports enlists Radio 4 Test Match Special's Trevor Bailey, who will be arranging "informal games of golf". Fred Rumsey (himself a former player) has Godfrey Evans, David Capel and Peter Martin on the celebrity roster. In some cases you could find yourself playing beach cricket against local opposition, or even end up meeting the England team.

Probably the best reason for following an England cricket team around the Caribbean, with or without the help of a specialist tour company, is to sample the spirit of the islands from the boundary edge. Needless to say, the formalities of a county pavilion should be left behind with the embroidered blazer. "In Antigua you sit where you can, even if it means climbing a tree," recalls one veteran of the 1994 campaign.

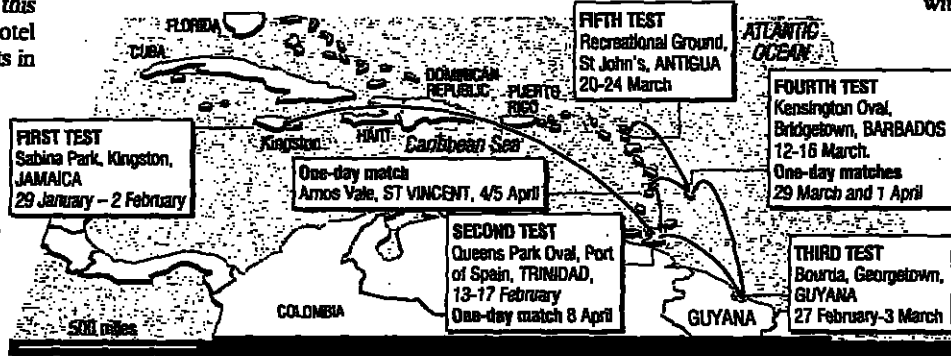
As well as their resident steel bands and sound systems, West Indian cricket grounds are noted for their vociferous and highly entertaining fans. Carnival-crazy Trinidad has Blue Food, the infamous conch shell blower who no doubt inspired fast bowler Curtly Ambrose to destroy England's hopes singlehandedly in 1994. And when not running a stall in downtown St John's, Gravy dresses up in a nurse's uniform and helps rally the Antiguan crowd.

Away from the cricket, the tours are as varied as the islands themselves. Barbados, with its Little England feel and wide choice of water sports, drew a record 6,000 English supporters last time round. Antigua, with its reputed 365 beaches, is almost as

popular. But the rawest and least visited venue has to be Georgetown, Guyana; the only Test venue in South America. The 30 supporters on John Snow's trip to the third Test in February will have the chance to explore a vast rainforest, plus a visit to the Kaieteur Falls, the world's highest single waterfall. "I quite like Guyana, even if it's a bit rickety," he says.

As a Bajan, he doubts whether England can beat the likes of Lara, Ambrose and Walsh on their home soil. Optimistic England supporters are hoping, meanwhile, that by the end of March they'll be returning home laden with Jamaican rum, sporting deep suntans and saying: "I was there."

Cricketing tour operators include Calypso Gold 0181-977 9655; John Snow Travel 01293 440440; TTC Sports 01244 355390; Fred Rumsey/Kingfisher Sport 01722 331111; Caribours 0171-581 3517



## GREEN CHANNEL

Africa is, of course, famous for its wildlife. But what about the people who live alongside it? In recent years many tribal peoples have found themselves pushed off their land so that foreign tourists on safari can come and see the protected wildlife, and, increasingly, they are living in poverty outside the national parks.

However, a number of communities in Kenya are taking back control. More animals are now migrating outside the parks than previously, and local people have begun to market these areas to tourists. A Masai community 25km east of Amboseli National Park has set up

Kimana Wildlife Sanctuary - the first ever to be owned and run by the Masai. It contains lions, leopards, elephants and other game and has three tented camps and one tourist lodge. The Masai charge foreign businesses to run the camps and spend the revenue on new schools, dispensaries and cattle dips. Some money is also put aside to help those whose livestock may have been killed by wild animals, or who are particularly affected during times of drought. Elerkeni Conservation Area, 17km north of Amboseli National Park, has also been established with local

communities in mind. The British tour operator Tropical Places, and the Masai people, have established the conservation area and have agreed to limit tourist numbers in the 200-sq-km area to 60 at one time. Tropical Places has been given exclusive rights to build a small lodge on condition that local workers are given preference, and that rent, bed-night and entrance fees for each visitor are paid to the Masai. Profits will be used for education and agricultural support.

Sue Wheat

## RED CHANNEL

The wise traveller will heed the advice of those who have gone before, particularly those who write guidebooks to unfamiliar destinations. But in some cases the danger is that you will be deterred from enjoying a country to the full if the risks are overstated. This, I found, was the case with the section on women travellers in the current edition of Lonely Planet's guide to Morocco.

"Western (and especially blonde, fair-skinned) women will find they have constant male company at various times during their stay in Morocco," it said. "Harassment usually takes the comparatively harmless form of leering; sometimes being followed and occasionally being touched up."

Arriving in Marrakesh, I was therefore prepared for the sort of hassle I had experienced in northern India earlier this year. So at first I dressed and acted like a Victorian governess - long skirts, long sleeves, no eye contact - and was reluctant to wander the souks and streets by myself.

This, it turned out, was an alarmist attitude. During the week that I spent in the city and up in the mountains beyond, the men I encountered were courteous and helpful and kept a polite distance.

Perhaps it's time for Lonely Planet to revise their doubtless well intentioned advice.

Harriet O'Brien

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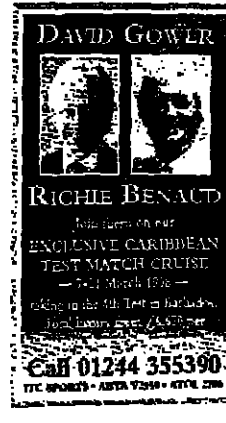
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# 8/DAYS OUT



Welcome to the pleasure dome dominating the Suffolk skyline for miles. Sizewell's ghostly golfball houses the water reactor.

Photographs by Brian Harris

## A nuclear family outing

Give your kids a warm glow, and take a trip to Sizewell, writes Emma Houghton.

Despite all those reassuring ads on the TV, driving towards Sizewell nuclear power station still makes the hairs on the back of your neck stand on end. Somehow it all looks so incongruous - the tangle of pylons marching out across the mellow Suffolk countryside, the looming apocalyptic white dome that dominates the coastal skyline for miles around.

Sizewell's two magnox and one water-powered reactors supply enough electricity for the whole of East Anglia, and its new owners, Magnox and Nuclear Electric, are keen to let you know it. The visitors' centre has plenty to while away rainy hours, including a full-scale exhibition explaining how nuclear reactors work, and various multimedia shows, models and displays covering the history of electricity, principles of fission, atomic waste disposal and, more surprisingly,

how Sizewell cares for the environment.

It's all enlivened by a number of quirky exhibits, like the large and colourful display of antique glow-in-the-dark radioactive glass ornaments - which would now be regarded as low-level nuclear waste - and plenty of hands-on activities for kids, including the chance to play with the Fantasia globe that arcs a blue stream of electricity through your hand when you touch the glass. You can also conduct your own experiments with a Geiger counter, detecting the radioactivity of various everyday objects like an old luminous alarm clock and a granite pebble. No prizes for guessing that it's the granite which sends the counter into a frenzy of white noise.

When you've exhausted the exhibits, you can see Sizewell-B on a minibus tour. Once the bus clears the security compound, you watch men wandering around in overalls and hard hats looking quite relaxed, and get a gull's-eye view of the 750,000 gallons of North Sea sucked into the plant every minute. You'll also get a close-up of that

spooky giant golfball housing the water reactor, thoughtfully coated in self-cleaning Teflon so it will gleam across the East Anglian coastline for many a year to come.

### The visitors

Emma Houghton, a freelance writer, and Joff Rees, househusband, took their three boys - Joshua, 7, Flan, 4, and Zachary, 2.

Joshua: I liked the video quiz. You had just 10 minutes to complete it and it was very hard. I couldn't do it; nor could Mummy. I looked at a lot of things about electricity. I liked the electric Fantasia ball; if you put your hand on the back and looked through, you could see your skeleton. I had a go on the Geiger counter, which was fun, but I wasn't sure what it meant. On the bus we saw all the buildings in the power station and the big white dome, which looked really nice. I think it would all be more interesting when I'm a lot older, though. It was a bit too grown-up for me. I'm not really bothered about power stations and all that stuff.

Flan: My favourite thing was the video game, but I didn't have a go because Daddy wanted to play it. We went on a bus and looked where the sea came in. I thought that if you fell in they would throw in a rubber ring to get you. The most fun was the cinema where we saw the big white dome being built. The cinema is on all the time, every day, even if there are no people there. There was also a ball with power in it. When I put my hand on it, the electricity followed my hand. It looked really funny.

Joff: Much of the exhibition was a bit over the kids' heads, but it compensated by being visually very stimulating. There were lots of little working models and videos, but it was a bit disconcerting to find that quite a few didn't work. It hardly fills you full of confidence.

I particularly enjoyed the minibus tour. It was like travelling around Switzerland on someone's Hornby railway set - everything was so neat, clean and orderly. The

guide told us that the sea water leaves the plant 8-9 degrees hotter, and cheerfully suggested that Sizewell beach is therefore the best place to swim.

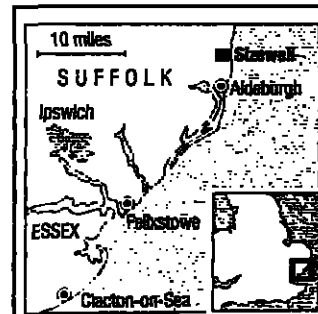
Emma: It was all imaginatively done, very educational and quite fascinating, but after a while I began to feel rather brain-washed. Unlike a museum, where things are displayed for their own sake, everything in the visitors' centre seemed to be there to prove that nuclear power is clean, economical and absolutely safe. It was obvious that global warming is the best thing to happen to the nuclear industry since Ernest Rutherford first split a nitrogen atom 80 years ago. No opportunity was lost, for instance, to tell you that UK nuclear electricity saves an annual 13 million tonnes of carbon emissions.

I felt there were a lot of highly questionable terms like "fail-safe" banded about, and the video, which assured you that nuclear energy has a "negligible environmental impact", struck me as pure propa-

ganda. I thoroughly enjoyed the visit, but it could have done with more balance - perhaps an interactive game, "Can You Avoid Meltdown?", or a video, "Great Nuclear Accidents of Our Time". I'm sure Greenpeace would be happy to help.

The deal Sizewell visitors' centre (01728 642139) is next to the power station. From the A12, follow the signs to Leiston, then take the B1119. Opening times: daily 10am-4pm, except Christmas and Boxing Day. Admission: free.

Facilities: there are toilets and a vending area for refreshments. The 40-minute mini-bus tours leave at regular intervals. There are also 1½-hour walking tours of Sizewell A Magnox station, but these are not available to the under-fives. There is a nature conservation area outside. Access: the visitors' centre is accessible by wheelchair, and disabled visitors can be accommodated on the mini-bus, but not the walking tour.



### PIT STOP

Once you've sized up Sizewell, head for the Manor House at Walberswick (01502 723243). At this neat, family-run restaurant and tea shop, toasted tea cakes (90p), sandwiches (from £2)

and cream teas (£3) are available all day, while the blackboard lunch menu features local fish and other produce such as grilled or fried plaice (£5.50), seafood thermidor (£7.95) and sausages

with potatoes and onions. Starters include a home-made soup, and grilled bananas with Sultana and cream.

In the afternoon there are also high teas - scrambled eggs

(£3.95), cheese on toast with bacon (£3.95), grilled kippers. Small portions are available on request, plus a few extras for children such as chicken nuggets, fish fingers

and sausages with chips. Facilities include a high-chair and a changing shelf in the Ladies.

From 'And Children Come Too', Bookman, £9.99

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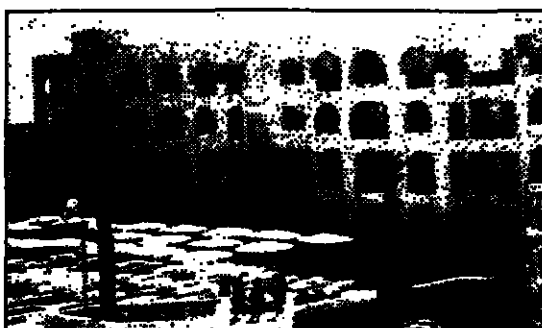
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IT'S CHANGED ... HAVE YOU?

كلنا من الأهل



**Now's the time to arm yourself to the teeth and commit carnage in the garden.**  
Illustration by Solly Kindberg.

But we've been in our house long enough now for the things we've planted to have done a lot of growing. For a time I persuaded myself that the bank was a romantic jungle. Now I am forced to the far less pleasant conclusion that it's a mess. Something has to go, and if it's not me it has to be them - the plants that have grown too big for their situation or have not delivered what I was hoping for.

Usually, too, I think it must be my fault rather than the plant's if it's not doing well. For years I've had this notion that everything that goes wrong in the garden is down to me. In general, that is better than supposing problems always to be someone else's fault, but suddenly I am tired of guilt. I've done all I can for this rose: pruned it, mulched it tenderly with the best cow dung that Dorset can provide, kept it free from bindweed. It's been a one-way relationship and I've had enough. It's gone. Burnt. Destroyed.

The process started with the ceanothus that we tore out from the front of the bank to make more room for small plants and

Making space, taking things out, need not be as wholesale as it has been with the 'Agnus' rose and the ceanothus. Sometimes cutting out branches is enough. Lifting the canopy of trees by taking out one or two of the lowest branches is a surprisingly effective way of gaining more gardening room. This is

what I need to do with the evergreen Portuguese laurel under which a big *Decaisnea fargesii* is growing.

I wouldn't want to be without the laurel entirely. It stands on the boundary between us and our neighbour and provides useful cover. It also shelters our garden from the prevailing south-westerly winds. But it is a dense tree, and the *decasne* tends to lean out from under it and wave its great leaves (pinnate leaves about 3' long) over the lawn. Then the grass gives up.

If we take out a few of the laurel lowest branches so that it doesn't sit quite so heavily on the decainaea's head, the decainaea itself will feel that it can grow up into the vacuum that has been created, rather than reaching out over the laws. The laurel branches could have been jugged back, rather than taken away entirely, but I don't think the effect would have been good. The unnatural truncation would have caught your eye and felt uncomfortable.

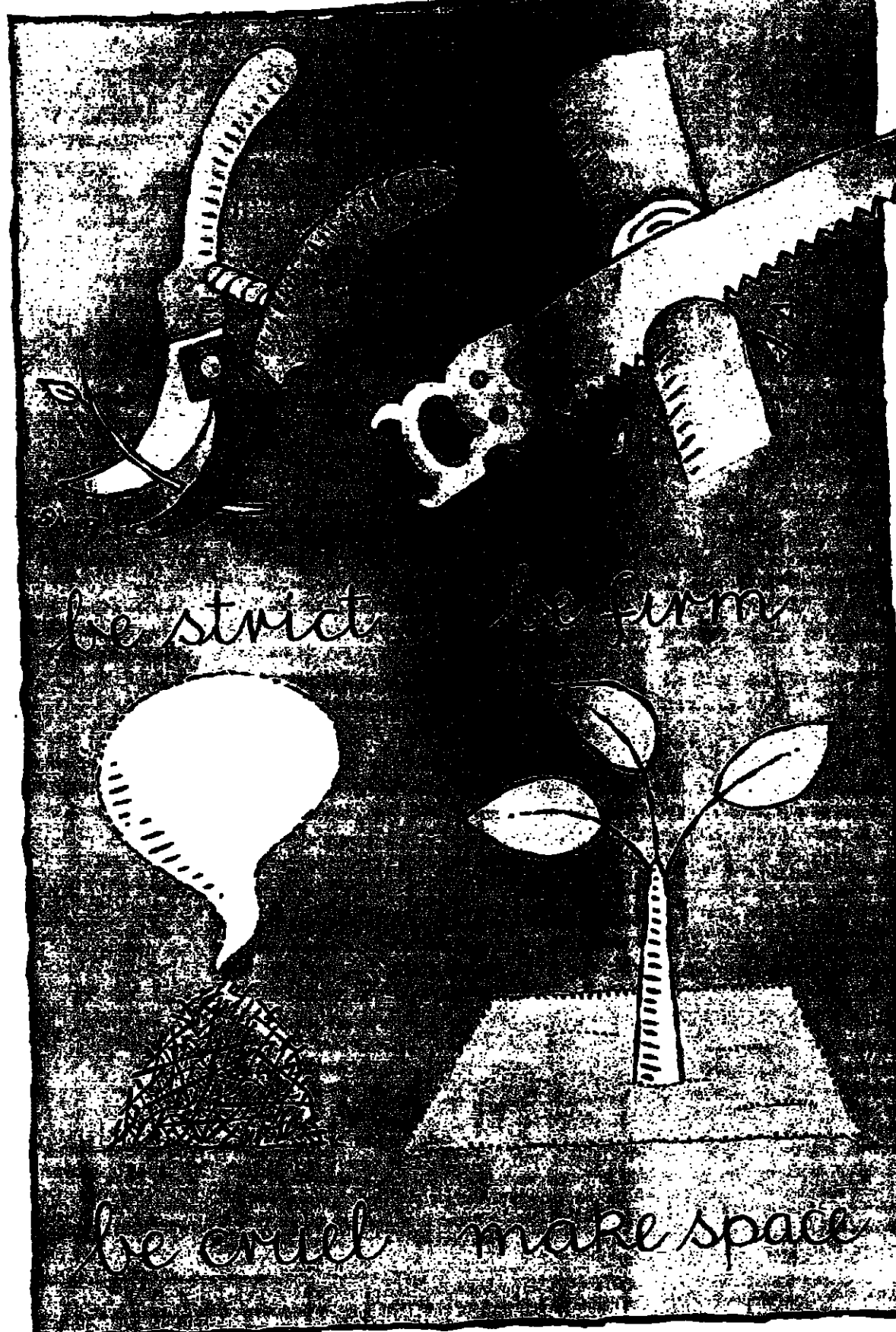
The decaysen itself needs cutting back, too. Left to itself it would make a big, multi-stemmed shrub at least 15ft tall and wide. But like many multi-stemmed shrubs (cotoneaster, philadelphus, etc) it can easily be kept at a more manageable size if you regularly take out one or two old stems each year.

I won't do that now. Even in the white heat of my Impulser mode, I recognise that this is too good a shrub to risk losing. Pruning always kicks a plant into top gear. But you don't want new growth produced at a time when it may be frosted. It will be safer to attack the decaysnea after it has flowered, in May next year. And if I cut it now, I would lose many of the seed pods that are one of the reasons for growing the shrub. They are weird, the size and shape of sausages, but navy blue.

The coleoneaster is different. It seeded itself into the bank and because there was nothing much else there at the time I left it. It is *Coleoneaster simonsii*, with small, neat leaves and oval fruit, turning now to bright orange-red. It comes from Sikkim and Bhutan and makes generally upright growth, about 8ft tall. It's a shrub you can't find any fault with, but at the same time, not one that ever stops you in your tracks, the way the aralia and the dactyloctenium do.

W J Bean, author of the monumental, four-volume *Trees and Shrubs Hardened in the British Isles*, says *C. simonsii* is "unable to take care of itself". Good. I need a feel sorry for it when the saw starts to bite. Two of the upright growths have taken the decided turn towards the horizontal, consequently getting in the way of a pale pink fuchsia (*F. magellanica*), which is flowering its head off at the moment. I have only been waiting for harvest festival to start rampaging round the cotoneaster. The branches will help decorate the front.

Removing big things, such as trees and shrubs, has the most immediate impact, of course, but sorting out the perennial understorey is no less important. Two things have happened to the detriment of the display on the bank. I have been far too easy-going about self-seeding such as *alchemilla*, *brunnera* and *orizanthum*, and I have let some plants, such as *iris sibirica* 'Heavenly Blue', go on expanding until the clumps are at least 10m across. No, I put that badly. No guilt. These plants deserve everything that they are getting, and I have no doubt that they are shortly coming to them. I'm off now with my favourite spade, to smash them to smithereens.



what I need to do with the evergreen Portuguese laurel under which a big *Decaisnea fargesii* is growing.

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## Arm-to-beak combat with a capercaillie

This weekend, more than 90 countries are taking part in World Birdwatch 1997. But will the birds co-operate, or strike back?

Not often is one physically assaulted by a bird. Farmyard cockerels do sometimes spar up at humans, it is true, but for a wild bird to launch an attack is rare indeed. Yet earlier this year I found myself locked in single combat with a rogue capercaillie.

We were driving through a pine forest when my guide let fall that we had just entered the territory of a male caper, which, crazed by sex, was driving all comers off his beat. The moment we stopped, out he strutted, down a bank, and wham! - beak-first into the front of the Land Rover. A colossal grouse, more than 2ft tall, he was nearly black in the body, with hints of brown, bottle green and white, but scarred and bloodied about the head from fighting.

With his bony beak pointed straight upwards, he was uttering extraordinary, metallic, clicking noises.

When I got out and tried to chat him up, he came straight for me, pecking at my legs, and when I put the toe of one boot on his breast, to push him away, he let fly an incredibly swift double clap with his wings - babbom! - striking furiously on either side of my right knee.

So consumed with aggression was he that no amount of shooing could drive him off. I felt sure that if I had seized him by the neck and whirled him

round, he would have come back into the attack the instant he regained his feet. In the end we reboarded our Land Rover, nudged him out of the way and drove off.

I mention the incident now because today and tomorrow World Birdwatch 1997 - the biggest twitches' turn-out in history - is taking place. The event had its origins in Birdwatch UK, during the Eighties; the idea spread to Europe, and then in 1993 went global. This year more than 90 countries are taking part, including China, Bolivia and Yemen, and it is hoped that in Britain alone at least 50,000 fans will be out there seeing what they can spot.

The whole jamboree is co-ordinated by Birdlife International, of which the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds is the UK partner, and the aim of this "global celebration", besides giving innocent pleasure, is to raise awareness of the need for conservation work.

For me, the idea of joining an organised group to watch birds is somehow unsatisfactory. I would rather go out on my own and see what I can find. Nevertheless, I recognise that many twitches become so fanatical that they do not mind if they are part of an army, provided they can set eye or lens on their quarry.

According to Chris Harbard, an expert at the RSPB, seems, set themselves targets: 300 species a year for the really serious, 350 for those on the verge of fanaticism. As a warning to all, Mr Harbard cites the example of Lee Evans, the Great Twitcher of Luton, who deserted his wife

on the first night of their honeymoon to set off in pursuit of a rare shrike, and wrecked his marriage by driving 80,000 miles a year, at a cost of £10,000, in furtherance of his obsession.

All dedicated twitches, it

### DUFF HART-DAVIS

perhaps it was having my leg pulled so comprehensively that confirmed my bent as a solitary bird-watcher. Over this weekend I shall certainly be on the lookout, but alone.

The other day, in the Highlands, I had the luck to see a

golden eagle soar away off rocks below me and out over the glen. Through binoculars I could

tell that for a mile or more her wings never moved, but she changed course slightly by dipping the side-feathers of her tail, first one way, then the other - a majestic display of gliding that I shall never forget.

That, and the mad caper, have given me bird memories to last into my dotage.

For information on the nearest event of World Birdwatch, call the RSPB hotline 01273 299399

Tawny owl Photograph: Ardea

Duff Hart-Davis

NATURE WATCH

Bird and animal droppings, though superficially unattractive, are a rewarding subject for study, because they betray the presence of creatures rarely on view. White splashes on a stile or gatepost, for instance, are probably those of a tawny owl or a little owl, the whiteness being dissolved calcium from the bones of rodents which the nocturnal predators have caught and eaten.

Foxes often leave their calling-cards on molehills or stumps, and at this time of year the droppings are often dark red or purple - not a sign that Reynard has intestinal problems, but a reflection of his liking for fruit. Blackberries and elderberries go down well.

Experts can tell those of bucks and does apart, and some people claim that in dense forests dung-counts are the most accurate means of assessing the deer population.

Duff Hart-Davis

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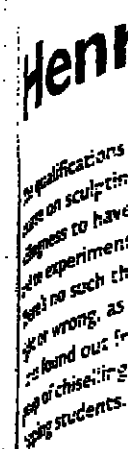
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THE INDEPENDENT



TOKEN 8



*Total walked: about 20 miles.  
Best-hiddey\* site: Marlborough  
Street - off Elystan St, SW3.  
More traditional weekend walks re-  
turn next week.*

I have recently noticed that a number of friends' children have started to play. This must be good for the game and I wouldn't be surprised to see a resurgence of the game over the next few years. All we need is tournament organisers to include a children's section and we could have a British World Champion in the not too distant future. So please - let the children play.

هكذا من الأصل



## Henry Moore or bust

The qualifications for a course on sculpting are a willingness to have fun and to experiment. There's no such thing as right or wrong, as Solly Staples found out from a group of chiselling, chipping students.

Maggie Ward, dressed in an apron, goggles and mask, is hacking furiously at a concrete block. So far it bears little resemblance to the delicate clay model of a classical girl's head that she made last week. But these are early days in the sculpture course, and Maggie's enthusiasm with her hammer and chisel is promising.

"Aphrodite, here I come," she giggles as she tackles her block with gusto. "I must say that if you've had a row at home, this is good therapy." Maggie decided to sign up for the sculpture course now that the two youngest of her three children have started university. "My husband has just retired and so I thought I would do something for me. I had absolutely no experience of sculpture at all. I'd done dressmaking and pattern-cutting at college but this is a completely new experience. And it's wonderful.

"Look at my homework. We had to carve something out of fruit or vegetables and I did this female figure out of a potato. I kept her in the fridge but she seems to have lost her bust..."

Fellow student Neil Peters, 39, works as a literary agent and director of a publishing company, and after years spent promoting the talents of playwrights he decided to look at his own potential.

"I had done a bit of sculpture in art at school and knew I liked it. I wanted to do something tactile, and something that was more than just a hobby class. What I found here was a tutor who is very encouraging, and I have met a whole cross-section of people I would never normally meet in my work."

There are about 15 men and women on this particular further education course, at Kensington and Chelsea College in London. It is called Sculpture Materials and Techniques, runs from 10pm until 4pm every Tuesday for 30 weeks, and can take students up to A-level standard. But there is no particular pressure to achieve. The tutor allows most of his pupils to go at their own pace to build up a portfolio, and they are taught basic techniques in a variety of materials.

Both Neil and Maggie are anxious to point out that everyone is made to feel comfortable.

No one is going to denigrate those first, self-conscious and sometimes embarrassing attempts to fashion something resembling a head out of a handful of clay.

On the day of my visit, while some students chatted constantly others worked quietly in a corner away from the group, either intent on a piece of work or, perhaps, finding the experience of sculpture a therapeutic one. At the introductory session students are asked to draw sketches of heads and then begin to mould them with the clay. Next they are taught to carve and reproduce the clay model out of a concrete breeze-block.

The tutor, Tim Beswick, said that sculpture courses now attract more women than men – a reversal of the situation 20 years ago. "Women approach it in a different way. I think they don't have the same expectations as men and are prepared to experiment more," he added.

"During the course we will be working with steel, plaster, wire, wood and 'mixed media', which can mean anything from string and brown paper to plastic bottles and teddy bears. I try to cover conventional approaches to sculpting, and to introduce contemporary issues.

"The first term is really about banging, sawing, sticking, cutting, and getting to grips with

the sculptor's tools. Next term they will do a piece of sculpture on a theme they have chosen. It may be something like the beauty of snow or the sadness of Christmas. By the end of the year they will work independently.

"We start off having fun and trying to break down any

fears. A common comment is 'I can't draw. I won't be any good.' People gradually gain confidence, because this is a safe, non-critical environment to develop and take risks. No one's going to say 'You're not good enough for this class.'"

Jo Innes, a copper-haired 27-year-old with a model-like figure, is quick to confirm this approach. "People are so afraid of rejection, but whatever you produce Tim will always find the germ of an idea. I do a jewellery-making course, where you have to learn techniques and there is a right and a wrong. Here you can be creative and do what you really enjoy.



Shape of things to come: the beginners' sculpture class at Kensington and Chelsea college

Photograph Nicola Kurtz

*Techniques' course is one of several offered by Kensington and Chelsea College in London (0171-573 3600). It costs £145 plus materials, and there are reductions for the unemployed.*

*For advice on other sculpture classes, contact the Adult and Further Education department of your local authority.*

Where to learn  
The 'Sculpture, Materials and

## Trial by tiger traps, stone walls and water jumps

Dressage contests are nerve-racking. Especially if you are a novice. Anna Dednar, rider No 13, steels herself for the Porlock Vale hunter trials.

Sitting on a wobbly wooden bench, gazing at a field that contained one woman holding a clipboard and another riding a horse round in circles. I tried to remember when I had last felt so nervous that my stomach was in my throat and my nails were digging into my palms.

I was waiting for my turn to ride in the hunter trial at Porlock Vale House, and I was No 13, second to last, so there was too much suspense for my liking. The intermediate class was first, but I had decided that since I had never entered a competition like this before I was a novice – and anyway, there was a very sharp 3ft 6in drop fence for the intermediates which I did not much care for.

It was a small event, only 14 riders, all staying at the hotel for

the weekend and using the stable horses. But it was real enough for me. As well as straightforward fences and drops there were tiger traps, ditches, coffins, banks, steps, stone walls and a water jump, spread over six fields.

The scene was beautiful: the Edwardian hunting-lodge that Helen and Kim Youd took over two years ago has 25 acres running right down the pebbly beach, and you can see from the Somerset coast across to Wales. Behind the house the woods rise almost vertically up to Exmoor – where a fast ride is guaranteed to blow the cobwebs away. Even the weather had turned in our favour; storms earlier in the week had threatened to make the ground too dangerous for cross-country riding, but two dry days and a bit of sun had sorted that out.

The competitors were a mixed bunch – Sainsbury's buyers, a tour guide, a film designer, a dietitian – but we all had two things in common: a love of riding and a determination to get round the course. Throughout

the Friday and the Saturday morning we were taken over the jumps again and again until we had a little more confidence – and perhaps style – than we started with.

There had been a few falls – including mine, on about my second jump on Friday morning riding Reg (nine years old, 16 hands and a tendency to get faster and faster and faster) over the tiger trap, which turned out to be an Anna trap as well. But so far there had been no injuries more serious than bruises – and lighter wallets, since there is a tradition that any guest who falls off has to buy cream cakes for the seven stable staff.

On Saturday, those experienced enough not to be too troubled by nerves had eaten a quick lunch and then we had walked the course. Our chief instructor, Shaun Rigby, had devised the novice and intermediate courses – and rectified his design, after it was pointed out by a sharp-eyed guest that there was no 17 jump. Shaun took the intermediates and his assistant Rachel



Getting the bit between the teeth at Porlock Vale Photograph: Christopher Jones

took the three novices, showing us the best line to take for each jump and pointing out potential problems such as long stretches between jumps where the

horses might pick up speed, and would have to be checked before launching over a drop.

One field – known as the farmyard – was to be ridden

against the clock, timed from the moment our hand touched the gate which we had to open and close, till we jumped out into the next field. The gate's

tricky metal catch had been worrying quite a few people, but one of these took action and bribed Shaun with a large bar of chocolate to let us use a rope loop dropped over the gatepost instead of the catch.

And then suddenly it was 2pm, and Victoria, the first rider, due at 2.15pm, hurried back to the house to have a stiff brandy before putting on her boots, hat, body protector and number bib.

Each rider had to wait for the previous one to complete the course, so there would be one person riding, one warming up in the first field and one getting their horse from the stables. The timetable allowed seven minutes for each round.

Finally it was time for me to go and get Yogi (16 years, 16 hands). We warmed up with a trot, a canter and a couple of jumps, and then it was time to begin.

Although it was a competition, everyone really urged each rider to succeed at each jump. There had been applause for everyone so far and I knew it

would be no different for me, but I was so blinkered and deafened by concentration that I was oblivious to everything except my horse and the jumps. I had one nasty moment after the water jump when I could not remember where to go next, but I had no refusals and didn't lose too much time over the gate. I finished, after a clear round – and could breathe again.

I felt enormous satisfaction, and was very proud of the first prize rosette I was given in the evening. Yet the sense of achievement came from having competed, despite a real attack of nerves, and completed the course. Thank you, Yogi.

Anna Dednar took part in a hunter trial organised by Porlock Vale House, Porlock Weir, Somerset TA24 8NY (01643 862338). Events in 1998 include a one-day event and midsummer party in June, and hunter trials in September. Porlock Vale House was the birthplace of Olympic dressage riding.

For details of other hunter trials, see the 'Horse & Hound' fixtures lists.

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### RE-CYCLED

## Taking a spin around a spinner of news

It's strange what happens to those who ride bikes. They meet the oddest of people, find themselves in the quirkiest of situations. Peter Reynolds takes off his cycle clips and shares some of those moments

This morning it was Peter Mandelson who popped up in front of me on my cycle ride through London.

It's a regular, enjoyable and meditative experience. Strangely, it frequently brings me into close proximity with London's great and good. Maybe it's only in those few minutes each day that I am allowed to move in their elevated circles.

I think I irritated Mr Mandelson a little. Pedalling south down Ledbury Rd, approaching Westbourne Grove – me, a rather dishevelled, unshaven figure unwashed but enjoying the morning sun and there was

another, in similar condition but on foot in baggy shorts, not looking too happy.

We hesitated for each other. I adopted a motorist's attitude and he waited whilst I crossed the Grove. I acknowledged him with a friendly "Mr Mandelson".

"Good morning", he replied, the irritation evident that I had made him wait. The delight of cycling is to be motorist one minute, pedestrian the next – as it suits. Mr Mandelson should sympathise with this happy, chameleon condition. The thought amused me as I pedalled on.

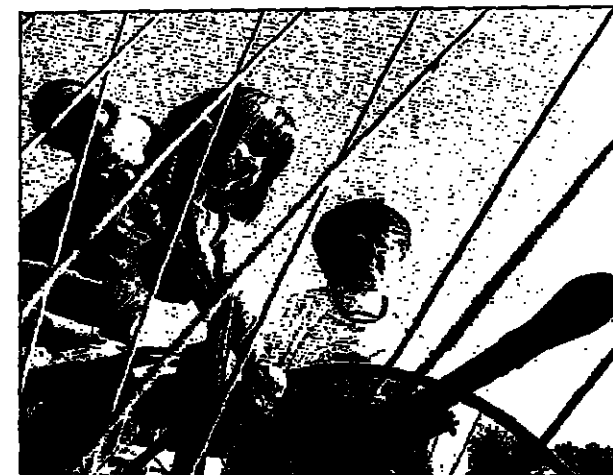
It would be impossible not to admire a man who, whilst not the original, must be the most notable "spin doctor" of all. Yet I fear that he has committed the cardinal sin, ignored his blind spot and chosen himself as his client. He cannot see the way that he is seen, even thought that is the essence of the skill he sells.

In the moment when one passes by on a bike, one can detect a lot. The bystander is ob-

served without observing and by the time they do, you are gone. Mr Mandelson looks strained, and well he might. The management of perception is easier when everything is potential and the reality of government does not interfere. He has succeeded without compromise in his goal, obtaining the all-pervasive, dynamic, "without portfolio" role which is the zenith of his art. But should he have gone on to take on this Millennium job and even more?

The skills that are required of a spin doctor are – the analogy must be made – of those of a spin bowler: skilful in a gentlemanly way, deceptive within the rules, defensive and conservative in approach, making way for the fast bowler to come through but seizing any opportunity that is presented. Are these the same skills that are needed for the new role Mr Mandelson occupies?

To be a spin doctor, a manager of communication, is an honourable profession, a skill essential to the presentation of



any message in a world where truth is subject to endless distortion. I am unsure that it is what is needed to be part of government.

Encouragement is also appropriate for someone who, in that unguarded moment, looked as if he needed it. Mr Mandelson takes full credit for managing New Labour through the media maze and into government. The country needs people who have the

ability to manage communication like this. But do we need them running the country?

So I pay my respects yet I question his present role. Perhaps I underestimate him and he has other skills which we do not know? Or – is this the Peter Principle? I feel pretty sure that the man who is expert behind the scenes is not generally the man who is expert up front but, perhaps, he will confound us all.

867 738

## Post-match tension and the managerial art of putting the press in their place



MIKE  
ROWBOTTOM  
ON A FOOTBALL  
PHENOMENON

I made a joke once. It was a couple of years ago, after a match between Coventry and Southampton where the referee realised he had blown the final whistle too early and called the players back for an extra couple of minutes.

Southampton's manager subsequently suggested the referee should get a new watch. "It makes a change from new glasses," I quipped. One or two colleagues were good enough to laugh.

Why did those Beano-type words come out of my mouth? Because, I now realise, I was in a post-match press conference.

This phenomenon – without which no football match in the country, be it England versus Italy or Rochdale versus

Doncaster Rovers, is deemed by Her Majesty's Press to be officially over – involves unwritten rules. And Humour, Appropriate Use Of, forms an important category.

The guiding principle here is tradition – say nothing that has not been tried and tested many times before.

Thus references to the blindness or incompetence of referees, or to balls coming down with snow on them, or to the likelihood of a few beers being consumed later in the day, are all OK.

But would-be wags should remember that, generally speaking, the managers do the jokes. Not that they are any better.

The managerial comic tradition relies heavily on men-

acing understatement. "I had a few words with the lads at half-time", accompanied by a grim smile – that sort of thing always goes down well with assembled scribes.

It is feature of such gatherings that common-or-garden phrases repeated by managers bring forth disproportionate merriment among listeners. Ron Atkinson, that master of the rehearsed quip, has had hacks convulsed in merriment with observations such as: "They've got two chances of beating us: slim and none."

Managerial ascription of bias to the referee is normally prefaced with the phrase: "I'm not going to comment on the referee, but..." This is only unintentionally funny.

At some point, post-match

discussions usually stray into the technical realm. "What exactly was your thinking in replacing Smith with Jones?", for example, is a popular form of words which hints at acumen in the questioner while inviting the manager to impress with the acuteness of his own tactical vision.

Often successful. But it is important to sound another cautionary note here. Only last week, I heard Harry Redknapp being asked to explain what had made the difference between his West Ham side playing so badly against Arsenal and then so well against Liverpool four days later.

The questioner – let us call him Brian, since that is his name – was rebuffed. "Well," said Redknapp with a sour

Cockney grin, "I read your article, Brian, so I knew I'd been playing David Unsworth too wide on the left."

Other managers are less humane in their response to journalists deemed to have stepped beyond their bounds. "Who did you play for?" is a brutal variant which I once heard used to – well, brutal – effect by Kenny Dalglish.

The Newcastle manager is in a Premiership of his own when it comes to putting the Press in their place. His stopper phrase, which can be deployed against any form of offensive, is: "You saw it. You write it."

For the reporter, the words "You must have thought" are indispensable for introducing almost any topic, as in "You

must have thought you were never going to score" or "You must have thought they were never going to score."

If the manager responds with either a yes or a no, hey presto, the quote. "I thought we were never going to score..."

For the rookie reporter, however, there are hidden perils at these ritualistic gatherings. After a Saturday match, there will be two rounds of questioning. Quotes for the Sunday paper will flow from the formal press conference. Follow-up quotes and stories for the Monday paper writers are usually gathered behind a closed door – any door will do, so long as it is guarded by a stony-faced man in a club blazer.

Manager and Mondays slip away together like lovers with

a secret assignation. These post-match lines are jealously guarded, particularly by the tabloid men for whose fresh quotes are essential.

Once, innocently treading into a huddle of scribbling macs, I was rounded upon by the mac closest to me. "You Sunday?" he growled. "You both," I said. "These are for Monday only," he said, turning back to the business in hand.

Thinking about all this reminds me of Ron Atkinson's old press conference line about his hyperactive midfielder, Remi Moses. "We call him dogshit," said big Ron beamingly, "because he gets everywhere."

God, that was so funny. Well it seemed funny at the time.

## Divided countries with a single obsession

The first cricket tour this decade by India to Pakistan ended on Thursday. It was business as usual, with stones being thrown at the visiting fielders, but the fact they play at all is a sporting miracle.

If the mood that hovers over matches between India and Pakistan is unique in cricket, it is not surprising. On Tuesday the two sides met in a one-day international in Karachi and India stole an improbable victory from the jaws of defeat. On Thursday they met again in Lahore and the

BY PETER  
POPHAM

openers Ijaz Ahmed and Shahid Afridi smashed the Indian attack all over the ground to win an emphatic victory.

In the same week Pakistani artillery shells killed 18 Indian civilians in the town of Kargil in Kashmir, and the Indian retaliation was claimed by Islamabad to have killed 20 civilians in Pakistan. That they manage to play cricket at all is little short of miraculous.

The relationship between the two countries is perennially bitter, bloody and fractious. Since gaining independence 50 years ago they have fought three full-blown wars and the struggle over Kashmir grinds on year after year. Even their clocks are at war, India's being half an hour behind Pakistan's so they do not have to celebrate Independence (which was declared at midnight) on the same day.

Cricket is the obsessional game of both countries, completely overshadowing all others (with the partial and arguable exception of hockey) and many of the fixtures down

the years have been scarred by trouble.

The series that finished on Thursday was the first time in eight years that India have toured Pakistan. In that time Pakistan have twice cancelled tours of India, once in protest at the demolition of the Babri Masjid mosque, once after the pitch at Bombay was dug up.

In the game in Karachi on Tuesday, Sachin Tendulkar, the Indian captain, took his side off the field after stones were thrown. Batsmen who treat the home bowling too contemptuously have been pelted, players have been manhandled. During India's last tour of Pakistan in 1989, spectators invaded the pitch to force the abandonment of a game

which Pakistan looked like losing, and the Indian players ran for their lives.

Meetings in third countries have had their

share of fun as well. When the teams played in Bradford, rival fans fought and Pakistanis burned the Indian flag. During the 1992 World Cup in Australia, spectators were arrested for chanting political slogans, while last month in Toronto the Pakistan batsman Inzamam-ul-Haq did a Cantona, charging up into the stand with his bat to assault a man who had been taunting him through a megaphone (it was not a political or religious taunt, though, he had been calling him a potato).

The expectation, then, is that there will be fireworks – so the only time I have seen the teams playing here, at Hyderabad in June, I was taken aback by the mild, studious, good-humoured atmosphere. Indians do not drink much and, in Hyderabad, which is the capital of Andhra Pradesh, a dry state, they don't drink at all, except illegally. That removes

one cause of noise and commotion.

Indians go to matches in family groups with far more women spectators, in both countries, than you ever see in England, many wearing burkas.

The vast majority of the crowd, filling in scorecards, following the game with close attention, are a million miles from being chauvinistic yobs. The Hyderabad match was more like a



Anil Kumble, of India, appeals unsuccessfully for the wicket of Pakistan's Aamir Sohail during last year's World Cup quarter-final in Bangalore. India won by 39 runs on a day when misbehaviour by the crowd of 55,000 was limited to orange throwing, which only briefly halted the game. Photograph: Allsport

game between neighbouring villages than warring countries.

The vast transfer of population that took place with partition in 1947 means many Pakistanis have family roots in India, and vice-versa. Religion may divide them (though India has some 40 million Muslims), but they share centuries of history and culture.

Competition is passionate but for the mass of spectators

it has a gentle, familial under-side to it. Chauvinism, bitterness and war are the prerogatives of the politicians and a small minority of hoodlums – but they are usually enough of the latter to provoke trouble.

According to Indian journalists who have followed their side abroad, this kith-and-kin mood extends to the players. "Off the field there's a lot of bonding between the players,"

says one, "especially between Pakistanis and Indians from the north who share the same language. I'd say the relationship between the players is the best in cricket at the moment."

"Of course, on the field, it's different."

The commonest comparison for the Indo-Pak rivalry is with that between England and Australia, and, even though the latter countries are not

actually murdering each other's citizens on a daily basis, there is a lot in it. The comparison can be extended further. Australia and Pakistan, despite having small populations, usually win. And after routs like Thursday's one-day international – Pakistan scored 219 for the loss of one wicket in 26.2 overs – Indians, like the English in similar circumstances, tend to shake their heads in despair.

Still, the crew is in good shape, though there are the downs, as well as the ups, when we see if we have lost any miles at the six-hourly position updates we receive for the whole fleet. They know it is still early days. There is no risk of complacency as we follow the routine of sleep, eat and sail. It's just business. We are winning on one hand, but only holding on with the other. I don't like having a boat nearly 30 miles ahead of me.

WHITBREAD ROUND THE WORLD RACE (First leg, 7,350 miles, Southampton to Cape Town) Latest positions: 1 Innovation Kvaerner (Nor) 11,000 miles; 2 Merit Cup (Morocco) 10,000 miles; 3 EF Langkai (Japan) 9,000 miles; 4 Chesapeake (USA) 8,000 miles; 5 Silk Cut (USA) 7,000 miles; 6 Arnelbach Challenge (USA) 6,000 miles; 7 Bosphorus (USA) 5,000 miles; 8 Bosphorus (USA) 4,000 miles; 9 Bosphorus (USA) 3,000 miles; 10 EF Education (Swe) 2,000 miles.

Weather buffs can also have a good time with links to various meteorological sites. The European Centre for Medium Range Weather Forecasts is for those who can't get enough of Michael and friends, with charts for six days ahead for the Northern and Southern hemispheres.

### SPORT ON THE INTERNET

#### Sailing the world on the web

For the ultimate armchair adventurer, there is a web site devoted to the Whitbread Round The World Yacht Race. There are actually people who pay to go on trips like this, but now, for virtually free, you can follow the progress of all 10 competitors on a daily basis.

The leader board shows which boat is in the lead (currently the Norwegian entry, Innovation Kvaerner), its position (just past the Cape Verde Islands) and the relative positions of the other yachts.

I'm a trifle worried that Chessie Racing seems to be amphibious as its plotted path takes it right over the middle of one of the islands. This could prove a useful attribute for the odd short-cut later on.

Some aspects of the site are still under construction, including an active race viewer, a virtual yacht-racing game and a chronicle which promises video and audio links.

There are diagrams of each leg with the tactics likely to be employed, information on the race rules, the scoring system, handicaps and ratings and details of the W60 yachts, which are being sailed by all the competitors. There are also pieces on all the teams and crews.

Several of the competitors have their own site. America's Challenge's site has a brief history of the previous six Whitbread races, diagrams and technical specifications of their boat, pen-pictures of all its crew plus the facility, should you wish, to e-mail any of them.

The Dutch boat Brunei Sunergy have a site of which they're getting philosophical – probably because they're almost last.

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#### ADDRESSES

Official Whitbread site  
<http://www.whitbread.org>

Individual boats

America's Challenge:  
<http://americaschallenge.sgi.com/index.html>

Brunei Sunergy:  
<http://www.bruneisunergy.nl>

Kvaerner Innovation:  
<http://innovation.kvaerner.no/index.html>

Living Classrooms:  
<http://www.livingclassrooms.org/whitbread/indexpage.html>

EF Teams:  
<http://www.teamef.org>

Weather reports

ECMWF:  
<http://www.ecmwf.int/>

Dutch Weather Service:  
<http://www.knnl.nl/index.html>

## If anyone is going quicker they must have picked up a jet engine along the way



GRANT  
DALTON

The skipper of Merit Cup in the Whitbread Round the World Race describes how he is trying to evade the slow power drain of the Doldrums.

Just ahead lies the lottery of the Doldrums but right now we are going faster than at any time since we left Southampton. If anyone is going any quicker they must have picked up a jet engine along the way.

With just over a third of the distance completed to Cape Town it is far too early to indulge in any feeling of confidence, and I have never been lucky going through the Doldrums. They never deal an even hand. I wouldn't mind a change of luck.

But it is nice to know that Paul Cayard, third in EF Langkai and doing a whole lot better than many predicted, thinks that we and the man we are chasing, Knut Frostad in Kvaerner, have spotted the

right place to cross the Doldrums.

He thinks we may sneak through and then pull right away and I hope he is right. We are now in that what is called the Inter-Tropical Convergence Zone. The buffers which move around and behave like a concertina, first spreading then contracting north-south, are this weekend's test of nerves.

What has struck us hard is that, if this were any of the previous races, where the winner was decided on the accumulated time taken to sail the whole way round, then a couple of the much-fancied boats could be in deep trouble, even though there is still a long way to go on this, the first and longest leg.

Chris Dickson started as

race favourite but under the old system he could be looking at kissing it goodbye right now, along with Gunnar Krantz in Swedish Match. Even Lawrie Smith's Silk Cut crew would have to be deeply worried. But, instead, there is a points system for each leg, so whether you are a second behind or a day, the loss remains the same.

That may be better for the whole race, but there is also the thought that this leg accounts for just less than a quarter of the whole distance but only one eighth of the points.

Another thing to think about is that, so far, perhaps it is the two best bits of navigation that has decided the leaders. Our up-beat reading of that

is that Kvaerner is going well but we have been able to match her. Where we may trade a mile or two, many others have consistently fallen back.

So, that may mean we are going quite quickly or it may all be down to luck with the wind and so far we have not had the sort of deep downwind running conditions which we like and had in the Fastnet race in August. Most of the spinnaker work has been quite tight, which is not best for us. And we are profiting from what I think were serious blunders by a couple of navigators. You have to get wet, guys.

Still, it is the Doldrums which could throw the curved ball. If the ITCZ is moving south then we will keep bump-

ing into it and the rest will come piling up behind us. But if it moves north we will be through and away.

At least we have some relatively clean clothes again. On day 12 we ceremonially changed everything and threw the old shorts and tee-shirts, suitably weighted of course, over the side. They weren't the sort of things you would want to keep on board. They could jump up and grab you.

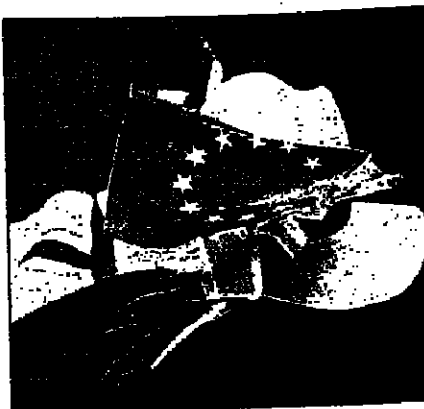
What has not improved is the food. In earlier races you took as much fresh food as possible before breaking into the freeze-dried stuff. Now eating is hard yakka all the way. We have enough for 33 days and that was supposed to be too much. Now it is barely enough.

Still, the crew is in good shape, though there are the downs, as well as the ups, when we see if we have lost any miles at the six-hourly position updates we receive for the whole fleet. They know it is still early days. There is no risk of complacency as we follow the routine of sleep, eat and sail. It's just business. We are winning on one hand, but only holding on with the other. I don't like having a boat nearly 30 miles ahead of me.

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# Valderrama: veni, vidi, vici

It was almost like being Seve Ballesteros, being a spectator at Valderrama. OK, you didn't get to zip around the course on his Thrust-style buggy. You couldn't get inside the ropes to pull a club out of a bag and quietly (?) suggest to a caddy this was the implement he should hand to his player.

But, like Seve, you didn't get any sleep. Like Seve, you got soaking wet. And, like Seve, you all but played every shot and went through every possible emotion before Europe secured the narrowest of victories. They came from all over Europe, mainly from Britain and Ireland but also from Germany and Scandinavia – in their Viking helmets – and from Italy and France, and even some from other parts of Spain.

From the resorts of Marbella and Torremolinos, they rose at 4am to travel to the western end of the Costa del Sol. Strictly against orders, they smuggled in step ladders and stole crates from the catering tents to see the action.

There were more Americans than ever before for a Ryder Cup on this side of the Atlantic, although you would not have known it on the first two days. Only on Sunday, with the Stars and Stripes comeback operation, did they reach their usual volubility.

Since the excesses of Kiawah Island, with the American players whipping up a partisan gallery, decorum has been re-established. It started four years ago at The Belfry, where some Americans had cause to complain on previous occasions, and especially at Oak Hill in '95. Despite the fact that spectators can get closer to the action than in any other sport, and the closeness of the contest, there were no major incidents at Valderrama.

"The atmosphere was incredible, the tension was amazing," said a newcomer to the event. "The whole thing went far beyond my expectations. There was a complete feeling of unity for the Europeans. It didn't matter who it was, where they were from, everyone ganged up behind them."

"You can get so close to the players when you are by the ropes. You could shout 'well done' or 'good luck' and they would acknowledge the support. Even Seve, rushing around on his buggy, stopped to give autographs. But best of all was the respect every one had for the players and the occasion. The silence at each relevant moment was electrifying."

The visiting captain, Tom Kite, had no complaints. "I cannot say enough about the galleries," he said. "They were enthusiastic but at the same time very fair. They were quiet when my players were playing, they were courteous of all my players. They cheered louder for the Europeans, but we expected that. In two years' time it will be the other way round."

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Tall, fun-loving, dim female, 41,  
5'11", enjoys golf, outdoor sports,  
seeks similar male, for  
friendship/romance. **22530**

**COUNTRY LOVE**  
Relaxed, attractive, country-  
living lady, 44, leading quiet  
life with dog, seeks intelligent,  
educated, not average, solvent  
male, up to 50, available for  
marriage. Kent area, call again,  
disaster with previous messages.  
**22546**

**RED HEADED ROMANCE**  
Autumn-haired female, 43, slim,  
fit, interested in the arts, the  
atre/theatre, started rock  
climbing, can anyone help,  
seeks affectionate, outgoing,  
adventurous male, for friendship  
and romance. **22527**

**THE WORLD IS OUR TOY**  
Attractive, fun-loving, 52,  
professional female, seeks  
reliable, honest, professional  
male, 40-55, for companionship,  
friendship and possible  
romance. **22536**

**OUT LOOKING!**  
Cultural, creative woman, wide  
life experience, seeks partner,  
40-50, South Wales. **22539**

**DREAMING & WISHING**  
Happy, slim, dark-haired,  
attractive female, 50, enjoys  
cinema, countryside, dining out,  
seeks honest, sincere, like-  
minded male, 45-55, for  
romance and friendship.  
Hampshire area. **22529**

**FIRST CALLER**  
Funny, comes across outgoing,  
interested in attractive women,  
wonders if there is a man with  
guilt, life and imagination, who  
would like to meet. No under  
50s, smokers or boys need  
apply. **22568**

**RED-HEADED NURSE**  
Slim, attractive, adventurous  
nurse, mid-40s, divorced,  
seeks attractive, NS man, similar  
age, with warm wit, per-  
ception, for whatever reason.  
NW Kent/South London area.  
**22565**

**CUDLY FEMALE**  
Caring, cuddly, petite female,  
40s, into everything, seeks  
equivalent male, with GSOH, for  
caring friendship. Anywhere.  
**22526**

**BUBBLY REDHEAD**  
Bubbly redhead, enjoys wine,  
cooking, cinema, 30s, seeks  
professional, adventurous, humorous,  
honest, lively male, 30-55.  
No drinks need apply! **22520**

## INTO ANTIQUES & MUSIC...

Attractive, slim, intelligent,  
independent female, 26, seeks  
tall, charming, successful male,  
30-40, for all things gorgeous.  
London/Essex. **22584**

**KIND GENUINE MALE?**  
Tall, slender, friendly, profes-  
sional female, seeks tall,  
humorous, settled male 27-34,  
for a loving relationship.  
London area. **22501**

**YVS**  
Swedish, outgoing, confident,  
happy, blonde female, 29,  
enjoys the social scene, art,  
drama, fun, seeks similar male,  
but more London area.  
**22378**

**SLEEPLESS IN BEDFORD?**  
Attractive, lively, professional  
female, seeks tall, active,  
like-minded male soul mate,  
25-35, to share fun times, drink  
occasional, collect, seek shells.  
Would that be great? London  
and Home Counties. **22311**

**BLONDE BOSSWOMAN**  
Attractive, athletic, professional  
female, 32, seeks adventurous  
male, to explore life.  
**22543**

**BRIGHTON LADY**  
Warm, down-to-earth female,  
36, NS, seeks compatible  
male, with heart, head, hands,  
humour, for friendship first.  
**22340**

**TIME FOR A CHANGE**  
Easygoing, caring, active,  
intelligent, attractive, slim, dark-  
haired female, late 30s, enjoys  
most things in life, seeks  
intelligent, NS male, 35-50,  
for friendship/romance. **22316**

**REQUIRED:**  
**BRIGHTON BLOKE**  
Down-to-earth, professional,  
stylish woman, long dark  
hair, art graduate, enjoys  
travelling, music, dancing,  
conversation, dining out, seeks  
similar, confident, friendly man,  
35-40, for friendship/romance.  
**22313**

**IDEAS ABOVE MY STATION?**  
Attractive, intelligent, 50s female,  
seeks solvent, good-looking,  
intelligent male, 45-50, for  
friendship/romance. **22522**

**UNBREAK MY HEART**  
Intelligent, well-travelled, East  
London female, 51, Trinidad origin,  
creative, caring, considerate,  
white male, 45-50, for friendship,  
romance. **22523**

**STYLISH & FUN**  
Attractive, stylish, brunette  
female, 43, NS, fit, likes  
VGSOH, seeks attractive, profes-  
sional male, 35-45, no lies,  
for friendship/romance. **22531**

**PRESENTABLE  
& PROFESSIONAL**  
Warm-hearted, petite, divorced  
mum, seeks educated gentleman  
40-50, for possible  
romance. Humour more impor-  
tant than looks. London area.  
**22504**

**BRISTOL BEAU**  
Romantic, genuine, trustwor-  
thy, considerate female, music-  
loving, 20s, to share life with  
a nice, cinema, arts, dining out,  
country/countryside, seeks honest,  
gentle, mature, good man,  
30-40, single/widowed/divorced.  
London/South East. **22538**

**BECOME 1**  
Interesting, kind-hearted, loving  
female, seeks romantic,  
intelligent, 20s, to share life  
and joy. Loves music/arts/  
poetry and takes the road less  
travelled. **22578**

**EARLY BIRD!**  
Attractive, slim, sociable, out-  
going female, 38, enjoys  
bathrooms, golf, cinema, dining  
out, travelling, seeks fun,  
honest, caring male, 35-44, for  
friendship/romance. **22535**

**CUDLY AFRICAN LADY**  
Cuddly, black, West African  
female graduate, 31, 5'8", likes  
cuddling, dining out, to share  
life with a nice, cinema, arts,  
dining out, country/countryside,  
seeks honest, gentle, mature,  
good man, 30-40, single/widowed/  
divorced. London/South East.  
**22538**



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Dark-haired, uncompro-  
mised, slim, attractive, loving,  
female, 30s, seeks  
intelligent, confident man, 35-  
50, with spontaneous sense of  
fun, for shared interests, friend-  
ship and romance. **22307**

**SOMEONE SPECIAL**  
Attractive, petite, outgoing  
female, great smile, likes keep-  
ing fit, travelling, seeks tall,  
educated, not average,  
solvent male, up to 50, avail-  
able for marriage. Kent area.  
**22533**

**COUNTRY LOVER**  
Relaxed, attractive, country-  
living lady, 44, leading quiet  
life, has custody of dog, seeks  
tall, educated, not average,  
solvent male, up to 50, avail-  
able for marriage. Kent area.  
**22533**

**SPRITUALITY-MINDED**  
Alternative health therapist, 44,  
loves life, travel, dancing, med-  
itation, personal growth, Irish  
music, having fun, seeks tall,  
solvent male, up to 50, avail-  
able for marriage. Kent area.  
**22533**

**RED-HEADED NURSE**  
Slim, attractive, adventurous  
nurse, mid-40s, divorced,  
seeks attractive, NS male, similar  
age, with warm wit, per-  
ception, for whatever reason.  
NW Kent/South London area.  
**22565**

**CHAMPAGNE  
AND CIGARETTES**  
Charming and very attractive  
lady, seeks professional, suc-  
cessful male, 45+, who would  
like to share life with a nice,  
cinema, arts, dining out, coun-  
try/countryside, seeks honest,  
gentle, mature, good man,  
30-40, single/widowed/divorced.  
London/South East. **22538**

**MAKE ME LAUGH**  
Smart, London lady, would like  
to share books, music, movies,  
books and the finer things in  
life with a tall, kind, caring  
gentleman aged 45-60. **22391**

**HAPPY-GO-LUCKY**  
Caring, intelligent, employed  
romantic female, 49s, seeks  
male soul mate, to share the  
everyday and the exceptional.  
Please call me! **22343**

**SEEKING MY SPECIAL MAN**  
Attractive, slim, blonde female,  
49, seeks intelligent, attractive,  
slim male, 35-45, with GSOH,  
who is adventurous, romantic  
and most importantly sincere.  
North London area. **22298**

## A WOMAN FOR KEEPS

Attractive, feminine, slim,  
adventurous, professional,  
Indian lady, Kuala Lumpur ori-  
gina, divorced with 2 children,  
enjoys music, dancing, socialising,  
seeks partner, for life. Are there  
any Australians or continental  
men out there? Lakeside area  
based. **22369**

**ATTRACTIVE SPARKLER**  
Outgoing, professional female,  
5'9", enjoys keeping fit, dining  
out, music, socialising, seeks  
tall, educated, not average,  
solvent male, up to 50, avail-  
able for marriage. Kent area.  
**22533**

**LIBRA LADY**  
London Jewish woman, curly  
hair, 43, NS, fit, likes  
VGSOH, seeks attractive, profes-  
sional male, 35-45, no lies,  
for friendship/romance. **22531**

**AM I INSANE?**  
Whitty, professional, Asian  
female, 25-30, for companionship,  
romance. London/SE area.  
**22521**

**LOOK NO FURTHER**  
Easygoing, attractive, profes-  
sional male, 40, 6' 8", slim build,  
enjoys cycling, photography,  
keeping fit, music, seeks attrac-  
tive, slim female, for new expe-  
rience and sharing. **22548**

**SEEKING  
SOMEONE SPECIAL**  
Outgoing, caring female, 21,  
5'4", likes reading, walking,  
cuddling, seeks tall, educated,  
not average, solvent male, up to  
50, for friendship/romance.  
London area. **22544**

**IN PURSUIT OF WONDER**  
Female postgraduate, full of  
life and laughter, 25, enjoys art  
and cinema, seeks handsome,  
movie, seeks day-dreaming  
guy to do life with and share  
the world with. **22195**

**ALL THERE?**  
Professional, attractive, caring,  
whitty, Scottish-Asian female,  
31, seeks attractive, profes-  
sional male, 25-45, with varied  
interests, to share everything,  
good conversation, special  
fun, friendship, romance. **22538**

**SUPREMACY/MALE WALES**  
Caring, affectionate female,  
early 30s, medium build, seeks  
male, 30-38, who is confident,  
enjoys country/countryside, riding,  
(harmless/questioning), or walk-  
ing, to share life with, a col-  
ours, fun and companionship.  
Leicester area. **22125**

## MEN SEEKING WOMEN

**AN ENCHANTING SONG**  
Romantic, divorced, very ill  
male, GSOH, trying to reach  
the sun/paradise, seeks  
female, with interests in  
photography, home range,  
antiques, old buildings/whit-  
ewash, seeks similar male, 35-  
40, for friendship/romance.  
London area. **22505**

**COUNTRY TALE AND CHAT**  
Quiet but friendly, Canadian  
male, 31, 5'11", athletic build,  
likes sport, cinema, pub, music,  
films, reading, seeks like-mind-  
ed female, 25-35, for friend-  
ship/romance. South Coast  
based. **22534**

**FREE-SPIRITED**  
Tall, slim, professional, sporty  
male, 31, 6'1", athletic build,  
likes sport, cinema, pub, music,  
films, reading, seeks like-mind-  
ed female, 25-35, for friend-  
ship/romance. South Coast  
based. **22534**

**WARM**  
...female, 38, seeks consider-  
ate, dog-loving male, for out-  
ings & friendship. **22112**

**AM I INSANE?**  
Whitty, professional, Asian  
female, 25-30, for companionship,  
romance. London/SE area.  
**22521**

**LOOK NO FURTHER**  
Easygoing, attractive, profes-  
sional male, 40, 6' 8", slim build,  
enjoys cycling, photography,  
keeping fit, music, seeks attrac-  
tive, slim female, for new expe-  
rience and sharing. **22548**

**SEEKING  
SOMEONE SPECIAL**  
Outgoing, caring female, 21,  
5'4", likes reading, walking,  
cuddling, seeks tall, educated,  
not average, solvent male, up to  
50, for friendship/romance.  
London area. **22544**

**IN PURSUIT OF WONDER**  
Female postgraduate, full of  
life and laughter, 25, enjoys art  
and cinema, seeks handsome,  
movie, seeks day-dreaming  
guy to do life with and share  
the world with. **22195**

**ALL THERE?**  
Professional, attractive, caring,  
whitty, Scottish-Asian female,  
31, seeks attractive, profes-  
sional male, 25-45, with varied  
interests, to share everything,  
good conversation, special  
fun, friendship, romance. **22538**

## STEADY SEEKER

Sincere, loyal, romantic, intelli-  
gent, good-looking, witty male,  
26, 5' 11", enjoys cinema, dining  
out, walking, cinema, conversa-  
tion, seeks similar female, 25-  
30, no lies, NS, for fun, friend-  
ship/romance. Midlands  
area. **22525**

**SOUL MATE**  
Professional, slim male, 28,  
seeks fun-loving, mature,  
romantic female, single mums  
welcome for friendship/romance.  
London area. **22525**

**UNIVERSAL EXPLOSION?**  
SE based graduate, 30, seeks  
intelligent, attractive, sensitive  
female, to hold my hand while I  
wait for the big bang. **22563**

**NORTH EAST SONGWRITER**  
Creative graduate, 30, into  
songwriting, music, gigs, jazz  
club, poetry, current affairs,  
intelligent conversation, dining  
out, seeks female kindred spi-  
rit, for friendship, fun and inspi-  
ration. Devon/N E area. **22540**

**EASYGOING HIGH FLYER**  
Professional male, 29, 5'11",  
tall, black/brown, medium  
build, enjoys current affairs,  
history, travel, nights out/in,  
socialising, seeks caring, char-  
ity, professional, intelligent  
female, 25-35, similar, inter-  
ests, GSOH, for friendship/romance.  
London area. **22505**

**TALL, DARK & HANDSOME**  
Professional, Asian male, 29,  
enjoys cinema, reading, current  
affairs, travel, music, cooking,  
going out, seeks intelligent  
female, similar age, for friend-  
ship/romance. London.  
**22505**

**ADVENTUROUS MERRID**  
Professional male, 33, GSOH,  
enjoys good food, real ale,  
cinema, 22-35, climber,  
diver, travelling partner. **22516**

**SOMETIMES SHY**  
Shy male, 30, enjoys cinema,  
TV, reading, seeking female,  
shy, short, dark hair, for long  
term relationship. **22529**

**LOVE AND HAPPINESS**  
Sporty, highly educated, NS  
male, 31, 5'7", enjoys cinema,  
TV, reading, seeking good food,  
seeks affectionate companion,  
for friendship/romance. **22516**

**PSYCHOTHERAPIST**  
Medium height, slim, brown  
eyes, autumn hair, European  
leaves, 40, winter, plus pho-  
tographer, cultural, aiming to  
be with, very individual and  
romantic, seeks cultural woman.  
Edinburgh/Scotland  
based. **22195**

**FRIENDLY BLACK MALE**  
Honest, trustworthy & fun,  
enjoys music, jazz/rap, soul,  
complementary therapies,  
nature, animals & practices to  
share life with, similar  
female, for fun and friendship.  
**22567**

**WHAT YOU DO?**  
Your stylish, funny, unconven-  
tionally successful, witty, compe-  
titive, can out on the dance floor,  
amusing, beautiful, and still re-  
gards the independent on sat-  
urday, time to rock & roll babe,  
get on the floor. **22571**

**SEEKING  
SOMEONE SPECIAL**  
Spiritual, attractive, divorced,  
Asian male, early 40s, 6' NS,  
non-drinking, vegetarian male,  
equally balanced, swimming,  
seeks similar female, 30-40,  
for friendship, possible relation-  
ship. London. **22510**

**HUGS LOST & FOUND?**  
Caring, professional male, 43,  
NS, part-time father, enjoys  
country walks, food, current  
affairs, dog, music, seeks  
witty, warm, worldly-wise  
woman, 30s-40s, to share life  
and hugs too. Norwich area.  
**22545**

**TRAVEL WITH ME**  
Stylish, professional woman,  
40s, seeks male, travel com-  
panion, with interests in  
Ancient Greece, for travel,  
friendship. **22530**

**SALISBURY  
ARTISTS**  
Artist, seeking other non-smok-  
ing artists, between 20s  
40s, for interesting times.  
**22531**

**FUN IN WILTSHIRE**  
Good-looking, tall, slim, un-  
hitched, mature male, seeks  
female, any age, for fun, friend-  
ship/romance. **22517**

**NATURPHILE**  
Very attractive, athletic, muscu-  
lar intelligent male, 28,  
cuddles, seeks similar female,  
willing to share life with, intimacy,  
honesty, romance, understand-  
ing and the power of synergy.  
London based. **22541**

**NORTH HANTS HANDSOME**  
Professional, gay male, 41,  
enjoys theatre, cinema, wine,  
walking, seeks similar, intelli-  
gent male, 25-40, NS, for  
friendship/fun, maybe more.  
**22545**

**JUST FRIENDS**  
Stylish, professional woman,  
40s, seeks male, travel com-  
panion, with interests in  
Ancient Greece, for travel,  
friendship. **22530**

**SALISBURY  
ARTISTS**  
Artist, seeking other non-smok-  
ing artists, between 20s  
40s, for interesting times.  
**22531**

**FUN IN WILTSHIRE**  
Good-looking, tall, slim, un-  
hitched, mature male, seeks  
female, any age, for fun, friend-  
ship/romance. **22517**

**NATURPHILE**  
Very attractive, athletic, muscu-  
lar intelligent male, 28,  
cuddles, seeks similar female,  
willing to share life with, intimacy,  
honesty, romance, understand-  
ing and the power of synergy.  
London based. **22541**

**NORTH HANTS HANDSOME**  
Professional, gay male, 41,  
enjoys theatre, cinema, wine,  
walking, seeks similar, intelli-  
gent male, 25-40, NS, for  
friendship/fun, maybe more.  
**22545**

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## No reverse gear for Healey, Leicester's motor mouth

The Leicester Lip is back in overdrive after a disconcertingly quiet summer. Chris Hewett tries and fails to get a word in edgewise as a rejuvenated Austin Healey lifts the lid on life with the Tigers and offers a few considered opinions on the French, the All Blacks and just about everyone else.

Austin Healey is describing the warm, intimate, close-knit team spirit that makes Leicester the most envied club in English rugby. "Half the things we do in training are geared towards us kicking the crap out of each other. We're always at it. I was fighting with Richard Cockerill only last Monday; I quite enjoyed it, actually, although he's still in a strop for some strange reason. I don't know why. It was par for the course."

Perhaps Cockerill, the Tigers' hooker who won his first England cap in Argentina during the summer, will continue to brood until he gets even with his infuriatingly uppity club-mate. In which case, he faces a frustrating wait at the back of a very long queue. Healey dedicates more time to perfecting the art of the wind-up than any player since Brian Moore and, as a result, the rugby population is divided into two halves: those who plan to punch his lights out and those who have already tried.

His conversation mirrors his rugby almost exactly: it comes in rapid, staccato bursts, driven by a rich humour flecked with a mocking derision for those he considers deserving of

nothing better. He is not so much super-confident as supra-confident, his self-belief bordering on the obsessive, his ambition limitless. If Healey ever achieves the standards he has set for himself, he will be Gareth Edwards and David Loveidge rolled into one.

Shoulder problems permitting, he will this afternoon face Toulouse in a hugely significant Heineken Cup match for the third time in 10 months. Typically, he has an opinion on the subject. "It's time for them to put up or shut up, isn't it? We've played them twice and beaten them twice. They've got a big reputation but they haven't done much away from home and if we play well, we'll beat them again. Nothing more certain."

"Psychologically, we've got it over them, haven't we? They might come to Welford Road with an unbelievable drive to bury this bogey team thing, but when they look up after 10 minutes and see we've got points on the board, the old doubts will be there again. Mind you, I can't help thinking that if they stopped giving away all the stupid penalties they concede every game, stopped all the gouging and biting and fighting that goes on with the French, they'd find it more difficult to lose than to win. They'd be marvellous, you know. They're really very gifted."

"To my mind, the French aren't taking the game as professionally as they should. The same goes for the Welsh. If someone punches you and it doesn't hurt too much, what earthly point is there in punching them back? All you achieve is a reversed penalty, miles of lost ground and, if you end up being cited, a lost wage packet into the bargain."

As we are on the subject of

money, does Healey admit to a greater than usual weakness for the folding stuff? In his new book on last summer's Lions tour, Jeremy Guscott claims "Scally the Scouse" would do anything for cash. Any truth in that one, Austin? "I'll tell you one thing I'd never do for money," he says. "I would never, ever [long pause] read a book by Jerry Guscott."

"Let's face it, though. This is a pro game now and if you don't want to be fined, you don't turn up late for training. The old amateur ethos has gone for good and quite frankly, I don't want to retire from rugby, move into a council house and live on bread and water. I dearly want to play for England, not only to satisfy myself but because you get loads of money for it. I'd play for free if I had to because the prestige means more than anything else. But let's not pretend the money isn't worth having."

Healey's Test place is by no means secure, even though he finished last season's Five Nations' Championship chirping happily away at the heels of the England pack. A dodgy game in six feet of East London mud last May badly undermined his Lions campaign and, when he reached Sydney for the one-off Cook Cup match with Australia, he lost out to his friend and rival, Matt Dawson.

"I could have performed better in East London, definitely, although the people who expected miracles from me in South Africa were basing those expectations on hard grounds and perfect playing conditions. I thought I played well enough to make the side for the opening Test with the Boks, but the selectors obviously didn't agree. I was more upset about Australia, really, but the setback motivated me, I got into my

club training nice and early and I'm mad keen to play against the Wallabies next month.

"The England set-up under Clive Woodward and the new regime is pretty relaxed, although that's probably because he hasn't named his first Test side yet. It'll be less relaxed when you have 15 very happy blokes and another 15 thoroughly pissed off with life. Still, we possess the talent to have a great season. We've got to be

looking to see off Australia at home and, while New Zealand are a different proposition, I wouldn't even consider going out on the pitch unless I knew we could beat them. Eighty per cent of their greatness stems from the fact that the rest are scared to death of them. We need to put that sort of thinking behind us."

So you've never been fazed by anyone, Austin? Never left a dressing-room knowing full

well that you are on a hiding to nothing? "Once," he admits. "When I was at Waterloo back in '93 and we'd drawn Bath in the cup. I remember thinking, 'We'll never win this in a million years,' but when they turned up without Stuart Barnes and Ben Clarke I thought, 'Well, perhaps there's just a glimmer.' As the game went on, that feeling became stronger and stronger. Finally, Guscott missed with a

desperate and truly revolting attempt at a drop goal and I knew we were home and dry. It just proved that anything is possible."

Even a Leicester triumph in the Heineken Cup, the new holy grail for club sides the length and breadth of Europe? "Oh yes, we've got a potential cup-winning side. Actually, I blame myself to a large degree for our defeat against Brive in last season's final. If I'd tack-

led Sebastian Vians in the corner and stopped their opening try, it would have been a different game. Wait until I see him again. He handed me off three times and I ended up falling at his feet."

Shouldn't that be "groveling" at his feet, Austin? You looked as though you were grovelling. "Don't be ridiculous," he snaps, the cheeky grin nowhere to be seen. "I never grovel."



Austin Healey: 'Half the things we do in training are geared to kicking the crap out of each other. We're always at it'

Photograph: Peter Jay

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## Noves faces his bêtes noires

Unless Guy Noves is indulging in a particularly unsavoury form of psychological one-upmanship, he is now a clear front-runner for the Concillatory Boss of the Year award. His team, Toulouse, are playing like drains, he has his most influential international backs, Emile Ntamack and Christophe Deylaud, on the injury list and he knows he must beat Leicester at Welford Road this afternoon if he is to avoid a distinctly uncomfortable quarter-final play-off match at the start of next month. How does he feel, given this litany of woe? "Pleased," apparently.

Rather a rum attitude, especially as Toulouse have suffered two consecutive, morale-sapping Heineken Cup defeats at the hands of the Tigers this year. Indeed, the last time the Frenchmen pitched up in the east Midlands, they tried everything to get the game, last season's semi-final, postponed. Even though the playing surface was more suited to Torville

and Dean than Ougier and Castaignède, the visitors failed miserably.

Still, Noves is very much "up" for what is effectively the Pool A decider. "Emile will play his first game of the season for a junior side tomorrow, but there is no way either he or Christophe can face Leicester," he said. "I am happy with the way we have played in this competition, however, because we have kept on improving match by match. Last season's semi-final is a bad memory - they dominated us in every phase of the game - but we want to avoid the play-offs and secure home advantage in the last eight and those ambitions are a big motivation for us."

Leicester, who beat Toulouse 22-17 at Les Sept- Deniers a fortnight ago, have problems of their own. Joel Stransky and Craig Joiner are ruled out of the midfield axis by injury, so Waisale Serevi plays at outside-half with Mitch Read filling in on the wing. There are

further lingering doubts over Austin Healey and Neil Back, both of whom were undergoing a final fitness test this morning.

At least neither side can go belly-up this afternoon. For Swansea, big Welsh hopes for a quarter-final place at least, victory over Glasgow at St Helen's is critical. The Scots, galvanised by their exciting 20-year-old wing, James Craig, will send the All Whites nosediving out of the competition if they contrive to repeat the 35-21 triumph they recorded at the Scotstoun Stadium last month.

Another hot tip for a last-eight slot, Bourgoin, are also up against the eight ball. Defeat by Munster at the Stade Pierre-Rajon this afternoon will leave the Challenge du Manoir champions clinging to a long-shot mathematical chance of progress to the knock-out stage. As the Irishmen are in the same boat, things could be very tasty indeed down there in eastern France.

— Chris Hewett

## Club sticks by decision to sack prop

West Hartlepool have stood by their decision to sack the England Under-21 prop Virgil Hartland following alleged biting incidents in matches against Rotherham and Wakefield.

West's New Zealand coach, Mike Brewer, recommended that the Second Division club terminate Hartland's two-year contract for gross misconduct.

The move has been condemned by Hartland's agent, the former England prop Mike Burton, who has threatened legal action for what he termed "character assassination". The England Under-21 manager, John Elliott, also questioned West's wisdom, but the Brierton Lane executive chairman, Andy Hindle, said the club would not change its stance towards Hartland.

"I have been astonished by the reaction of some senior people in the game," Hindle said. "This comes at a time when foul play is in the headlines following the Brive versus Pontypriod game, and yet we are being criticised for taking action."

West, relegated last season, have strengthened their squad by signing the Italian international second-row Mark Giachieri, a Super 12 performer with New South Wales. Another newcomer, the New Zealander Emerson Nikora, makes his debut in today's Allied Dunbar Premiership Two game at Exeter.

Bath and Walsley will provide almost half of England's Under-21 development squad. The 30-man group includes several players the England coach, Clive Woodward, has used in senior squad sessions at Bisham Abbey this season. The former England A coach, Keith Richardson, will take charge of the party.

**ENGLAND UNDER-21 DEVELOPMENT SQUAD:** D. Almon (Leeds), J. Beattie (Leeds), J. Brown (Coventry), R. Bryan (Bath), D. Harte (Worcester), C. Harrison (Bath), J. Leary (Bristol), L. Lloyd (Leeds), A. Long (Bath), L. Moody (Leeds), M. Perry (Bath), P. Sampson (Worcester), K. Sarrell, D. Thompson (both Saracens), M. Wood (Worcester), R. Beattie (Newcastle), T. Butler (Leeds), P. Buzdon (Leeds), J. Gower (Bath), P. Ogilvie (Saracens), R. Pellow (Leeds), P. Richards (Leeds), P. Richards (Leeds), J. Winterton (Worcester), J. Beattie (Bath), L. Best (Leeds), J. Latham (Worcester), J. Harlepool, J. Wilkinson (Worcester), J. Worsley (Worcester), M. Worsley (Bristol).

## Former referee to develop Five Nations

The former Scottish international referee Alan Hosie has succeeded Tom Kiernan as chairman of the Five Nations.

Kiernan will continue to be involved as a committee man with the Five Nations, the International Rugby Football Board, the Irish Rugby Union and European Rugby Cup Ltd. Hosie, 52, refereed 22 internationals before joining the Scottish Rugby Union in 1986. He has served on the Five Nations for five years, is chairman of the Laws Committee of the IRFB and is also on the Four Home Unions Tours Committee. "I am keen to follow up all the good work that Tom Kiernan achieved over the years," Hosie said.

"The Five Nations is still the jewel in the crown, and it is my wish and desire to make this competition even better."

Richard Jasinski, the 10th secretary of the Welsh Rugby Union and one of the guiding forces behind the Millennium Stadium project, has resigned

his post and will leave the job he has occupied for the past 15 months at the end of October.

The 50-year-old former managing director of the Cardiff-based Powell Duffryn Standard Ltd is returning to work in the private sector.

"The WRU regrets the departure of Mr Jasinski, particularly having regard to the important role he played during a period of great transition and activity both as union secretary and as a director of Millennium Stadium plc," said a WRU spokesman.

Wales' top eight clubs will face opposition from South Africa, Canada, Namibia, Spain and Argentina in a £300,000 Challenge Trophy tournament to be played in two phases this season.

The Premier League clubs will be split into two pools of four to play a domestic round of matches before Christmas. The overseas teams will come to Wales in January to play in the second phase.

Northern Transvaal will represent South Africa; Cordoba, Rosario and Tucuman will travel from Argentina, and national sides from Canada, Spain and Namibia will also play in the tournament.

The SRU has announced that Scotland A will play Northern Transvaal at a Scottish venue on 23 January, the same weekend as the senior Scotland and Under-21 teams play Italy in Treviso. Italy were unhappy about playing a senior and A fixture on the same weekend, as had been originally scheduled.

The Scots defeated Northern Transvaal during their summer tour of southern Africa, three weeks after the South African provincial side had beaten the British Lions.

The match against Northern Transvaal will follow a short tour by another southern hemisphere Super 12 side, ACT, who will play each of the four Scottish districts between 18 November and 5 December.







## Real Betis were playing on the Sunday, so I had to miss the singles



### THE GAFFER TAPES

As I told the chairman, as Fallover Athletic embarked on a fourth lap of honour, "this Coca-Cola Cup's not worth winning now you don't get in Europe. It brings distractions, injuries, fixture congestion. Now we can get on with the business of surviving in the Premiership."

"As long as we do that," said Sir Hiram Firearm rather too coolly, adding, "meanwhile, I'll cancel the Wembley hotel you told me to book after the first leg."

The press were more sympathetic, nothing, I'm sure, to do with my announcing I'd restored their free bar back at our place. I gave them the same spiel and added: "That's why I decided to play an experimental side. It was a good chance to see a few players and try a few things. I learned a lot tonight, mainly just what a mess Big Mick left me with."

"Now," I added, thumping the table for emphasis, "perhaps the chairman will give me the

money I need to put this great club back on its feet and give the fans the team they deserve."

That should buy me some breathing space with the punters. As for the chairman, I'll tell him I was misquoted.

Then, after telling Kit Mann, my assistant, that there was to be no drink stop on the way home, I left a team that had gone from my first choice to "experimental" in 90 minutes to stew on the coach while I pointed the Ferrari back down the A1.

It was a long drive, not helped by two hours in Work-stop nick for doing 110mph. Had to promise a few free tickets to get out of that one.

The night took the gloss of a good start to the week. While I was in Valderrama last weekend on a scouting mission (no luck, Real Betis were playing on Sunday so I had to miss the singles) we gained our first point. Then I went down to Brighton to help the FA plug the World Cup 2006 bid

at the Labour Party conference. Tine looked a bit nervous when he spotted me. We haven't met since I accidentally knocked him off his nag while we were both out fox-hunting with Sir Hiram, Rupert Murdoch and Bernard Ingham in the Quantocks a few years ago. As I approached he had a quick word with a sinister-looking fella alongside and, just as I began saying, "Tony, old mate, not seen you since..." this fella stepped in and gave me the slyest body check since Marco Gentile cracked three of my ribs in Turin 20 years ago.

"Terribly sorry," he said as I got up, "don't think we've met. Peter Mandelson's the name and Tony's asked me to look after you. Said he still blames himself and I'm to see you have some Bollo on the Party."

Well, turned out he was an old fan of Blackfurn Rovers where I'd had my glory days and we were soon reminiscing. He didn't half remember it well, though it was a bit annoying that his bleeper kept going off. I'm sure I caught sight of one message saying "Millbank response unit: Ask him about the Cup win over Arsenal in '74", but it's probably the champions playing tricks with my memory.

Anyway, it got so late it turned out Tine had gone to another function, a dinner with the Asparagus Growers' Union. Big Party stalwarts, according to Pete, who was kind enough to get me a taxi to the station. Wasn't until Clapham Junction I remembered I'd driven down.

Thursday I went to that FA coaches conference. They can't teach me much these days but I did learn one thing - never leave a mobile on when Fergie's doing a speech. He also said you should never use gimmicks in coaching, things like making players do three star jumps and a press-up between heading drills. Huh, he's just trying to wreck my coaching, he knows we're playing

them soon and he must be worried.

I'll have to increase security at training now I know he's been spying. Otherwise he'll pick up a few more tricks and before you know it he'll have Ryan Giggs doing speedwork in Dr Martens; Peter Schmeichel down at the other Old Trafford sharpening his reactions catching cricket balls from the bowling machine; and Becks, Pally and the rest of them playing strip six-a-side - there's nothing like knowing you're down to your jockstrap to make a team defend with their life. And when it rains like it did this week it makes for a belting game.

Meanwhile we've got problems for Saturday. I expected Shaun Proulx to be on his back again, and Ivor Niggie to be out, but half the team claim they've got flu. At this rate I'll have to play. Wonder if I can get a boot deal sorted.

Barry Gaffer was talking to Glenn Moore

### SIDELINES

## How Magpies turn into Cockerels

The traffic in personnel between Newcastle and Tottenham, who meet this afternoon, has been largely one way. A steady stream of likely lads, from genuine Geordies to the adopted variety such as Ruel Fox, Les Ferdinand and David Ginola, have left to join their friends in the south.

Paul Gascoigne is the most celebrated example, the Gateshead gawp costing Spurs £2m in a 1988 deal which also landed the infamous Five Bellies. Chris Waddle, who earned Newcastle £590,000 when he made the same move, was already in town to show Gazza where to get the best silly haircuts.

The Waddle of his day, left-winger Albert Gosnell, undertook the journey in 1910 after gaining FA Cup and championship medals at Newcastle. Two years on John McIlavish made the reverse trek, as did Bill Nicholson - later Spurs' Double-winning supremo - as a wartime guest. Keith Burkinshaw, the manager who brought Ossie Ardiles to White Hart Lane, cut his coaching teeth on Tyne-side.

Jim Bley and Kevin Scott later played for both, while Spurs reserves Mark Stimson, Peter Garland and Paul Moran all tried their luck at St James' under the Ardiles-Tony Galvin management duo. Curiously, the only Novocastrian likely to be involved today, Chris Armstrong, is a Cockerel who has never been a Magpie.



### THE EX-FILES

## Keane has no regrets despite long lay-off

Roy Keane's season ended when the Manchester United captain tore knee ligaments attempting a typically robust tackle.

Having to sit out United's Champions' League campaign and World Cup action with the Republic of Ireland is a bleak prospect, but, as Nick Duxbury reveals, the inspirational midfielder has no intentions of changing his all-action style.

It was a needless challenge, but Roy Keane made it anyway and must now live with the consequences. Leeds' Alf-Inge Haaland had the ball, United were losing 1-0 and Keane wanted it back. He was not prepared to wait and it cost him dear when his studs caught in the Elland Road turf and the knee buckled under him.

But the United midfielder, who will miss out on United's quest for the European Cup and the Republic's bid to reach next summer's World Cup finals in France, regrets nothing.

"People are going to say 'if only he hadn't signed for Saturday, if only he hadn't signed for United, if only he hadn't made the run forward, whatever,'" he said.

"I was going for the ball and the player came across me. After that I just felt my knee go, something snapped in my leg. The reality is that I have got the injury and I have got to get on with it."

Keane was seen as the perfect candidate for the United captaincy when Eric Cantona quit last summer. He leads from the front with the style that has prompted manager Alex Ferguson to label him indispensable.

Patience certainly is not one of the Irishman's virtues, but he understands now that he will have to curb his impetuosity in the months ahead and call on the instinct that makes him rise to the sternest of challenges.

"The injury is quite serious and I'll be out for a while, but I've just got to look to the future," Keane said, who had the scale of the damage diagnosed during an exploratory operation on Monday and will go under the surgeon's knife again to repair the cruciate damage in about four weeks' time.

"You don't know what to think knowing that you will be out for the rest of the season, you have just got to put your head down and get on with it."

"I will build my leg up for the next few weeks before I have the operation and then I'm in the hands of our physio David Fevre."

At least Keane's spirits were lifted by United's 3-2 Champions' League victory over Juventus on Wednesday night.

He watched the match on television at his Cheshire home, and said: "It's been a week to forget really for me personally, but fortunately the lads had a good result against Juventus which cushioned the blow a little bit."

"Hopefully, the team will carry on winning. We had a good result on Wednesday and a few more of those would be a nice tonic. I would love to have been out there on Wednesday. It wasn't to be, but I thought 3-2 flattered Juventus. I thought we were on top a lot more than the result showed and a few more results like that will speed up my recovery."

The 37-year-old former United defender, Paul McGrath, has been given a one-year contract by Sheffield United following a string of impressive displays since moving from Derby County.

### NATIONWIDE LEAGUE PREVIEW



Despite dropping down a division, Middlesbrough's Paul Merson has been reassured by Glenn Hoddle that he still has a chance of appearing in the England squad  
Photograph: Michael Steele

## Doncaster can only dream of revival

These are troubled times for Doncaster Rovers, the Third Division strugglers who today face another club with a chequered recent past, Brighton.

Phil Shaw considers the basement brouhaha and other key Nationwide League fixtures.

The day Fulham launched their brave new world, a radio interviewer elicited a strangely churlish reaction from a Newcastle fan. He could have forgiven Kevin Keegan, he said, had he returned to the game with his home-town club. To which Doncaster Rovers' dwindling band of diehards probably responded with a wistful "and so say all of us".

They have given up waiting for a messiah in Doncaster. The 1,500 or so who attend today's Third Division basement struggle against Brighton will do so out of a loyalty strained far beyond normal boundaries. Many will be there chiefly to vent their wrath on Rovers' "backer", Ken Richardson.

Brighton's travelling support, free at last of the Archer-Bellotti regime but still commuting to Gillingham for "home" matches, will find unpleasant echoes of their own, acrimonious campaign. Doncaster, though, are not remotely fashionable: there is no equivalent of Des Lynam to highlight what is going on.

Yet in many respects, their plight is worse. Rovers are in "administration", with debts so high that accountants must approve every item of expenditure. Richardson, having

parted with Kerry Dixon, runs the team, who occupy bottom place compared with Brighton's position two rungs above.

Doncaster's 11 League and Cup matches have delivered eight defeats and no wins. Last Saturday they lost to a Torquay team including three YTS boys, while at Belle Vue they have scored one goal and conceded 18. Hardly surprising given that their summer signings came free from Hyde, Workson and Gainsborough, and that Richardson's latest recruit, 37-year-old Andy Thorpe, last played full-time six years ago.

The response to Keegan and Ray Wilkins at their first fixture at Fulham, against Oldham, will be revealing after the disquiet of supporters over the ousting of Micky Adams. The Second Division's top match, however, is the meeting of Luton and the leaders Watford, who have

drawn the last three derbies at Kenilworth Road but are separated by the length of the table.

The First Division's biggest crowd will be at Middlesbrough to see whether Paul Merson can unhinge a Sheffield United rear-guard which has leaked just three goals since the arrival of another Paul with a problematic past, McGrath. Bryan Robson, the Boro manager, said yesterday that Glenn Hoddle had told him that Merson remained "very much in his thoughts" for the England squad.

United have won only once in the last 12 trips to Teesside. Manchester City, 6-0 victors but the kings of inconsistency, have a similar ratio from 26 visits to Ipswich. Portsmouth, who last prevailed at Stockport in 1924-25, and Wolves, seeking a first success at Bradford City in 70 years, are also striving to break the mould.

## Barcelona seek to put poor European results behind them

The Barcelona coach Louis Van Gaal, criticised in midweek after his team drew 2-2 at home in the Champions' League, hopes Tenerife will take some of the pressure off him tomorrow.

The Spanish League leaders, with a perfect record in four matches this season, entertain the islanders at the Nou Camp determined to put their indifferent European form behind them.

But some supporters, who have seen their team lose 3-2 to Newcastle and then draw 2-2 with PSV Eindhoven on Wednesday in their opening

Champions' League matches, fear Barcelona could crumble when faced by one of Spain's tough teams.

Tenerife, in fifth place, have former the Barga forward Mehlo Kodro upfront and have squeezed draws out of their last two games visits to Barcelona. Local fans even hold the team in some affection since the Canary Islanders effectively handed Barcelona the title in 1992 and 1993 when they Real Madrid in key games.

Van Gaal tried four different defensive systems in Wednesday's match but failed to stop the Dutch side coming

back from letting in two Luis Enrique goals - despite being down to 10 men.

To make matters worse, the game was just 15 minutes old when Barcelona's Brazilian striker Sonny Anderson limped off. He was examined by a doctor on Thursday, and the injury appears serious.

That is made worse by the fact that Hristo Stoichkov, his natural replacement, is out of contention after clashing with Van Gaal.

Real Madrid, fresh from a 2-0 win at Porto, should overcome Deportivo La Coruña tomorrow - on current form

few would bet against Jupp Heynckes' men.

Real are lying in third position, behind Mallorca, the surprise team of the league, on goal difference.

Unlike Barcelona, the reigning champions have already had a tough fixture in the league this season - the derby with Atletico that ended 1-1.

Deportivo have not won a point in the Santiago Bernabeu stadium in the last five seasons despite being ever-present title challengers and they have lost their way this season after the departure of the Brazilian, Rivaldo, to Barcelona.

Ten things that Leeds United's South African Lucas Radebe might be missing



- 1 Mrs Ball's Fruit Chutney. So tasty it is the most sought-after food amongst South Africans in the UK.
- 2 Boerwors sausage and stewed vegetables.
- 3 The Kori bustard - the world's largest flying bird. (Nigel Martyn can be good in the air, but he is not an especially elegant bustard.)
- 4 Lions, cheetahs, leopards, wild dogs, hyenas, jackals and foxes. (All tamer than Leeds squads of yore.)
- 5 The Cape of Good Hope.
- 6 26,000-year-old rock

and cave paintings by the San bushmen. Only slightly older than memories of the last attacking George Graham side.

- 7 Diamond mines.
- 8 Table Mountain. Like Ilkley Moor only higher, by the coast, and with views of a beautiful city.
- 9 Polygamy.
- 10 Hillbrow in Johannesburg, South Africa's Soho, featuring restaurants, cafes, bars, discos, prostitutes, drunks, beggars and street kids.

Not unlike Leeds city centre on a Saturday night, really.

### NAME OF THE GAME No 3: THE THROSTLES

While other clubs have associations with mighty eagles, elegant swans or wise old owls, West Bromwich Albion take their traditional nickname - "Baggies" - is the preferred moniker these days - from the humble thrush (or throstle). It was chosen as the club emblem because of the bird kept by the landlady of the pub which was Albion's original headquarters. Another useless fact: The Hawthorns is the highest League ground in England, standing 541ft above sea level.

### THIS WEEK

On 5 October 1985, Manchester United travelled to Luton having won 10 consecutive matches at the start of the season and needing one more victory to equal Tottenham Hotspur's record of 11. United took the lead through Mark Hughes, but David Plead's Luton rallied to draw the game 1-1.

In Italy, Mark Hateley was in negotiations with his club, Milan, over a new contract that would make him English football's second millionaire (Kevin Keegan being the first).

Bobby Robson made a trip to watch Hateley in action and saw his England centre forward score against Sampdoria in a 1-1 draw. Robson was also impressed by Milan's Trevor Francis got no further than the bench.

### THIS WEEK'S TRANSFERS

TRANSFERS: Dean Holdsworth (forward) Wimbledon to Bolton (£250k); Peter Raul (midfielder) Middlesbrough to Sheffield Wednesday (£200k); Graham Lancashire (forward) Wigan to Rochdale (£50k); Jason Doolan (midfielder) Tottenham to Ipswich (non-contract); Scott McGleish (forward) Leyton Orient to Barnet (undisclosed fee); Dean Whiting (defender) Carlisle to Lincoln (undisclosed fee); Carl Bradshaw (defender) Norwich to Wigan (free).

### HISTORY LESSON

How will Manchester United fare without the injured Roy Keane? Pretty well, on the evidence of Wednesday's win over Juventus and last season's record.

In 1996-97 United earned proportionately more points when Keane was not playing than when he was. With Keane, who missed nearly half the season, United's Premiership record was W11, D7, L3. Without him, the figures were W10, D5, L2.

Keane played in the 5-0 defeat at Newcastle in October but missed the subsequent 6-3 and 2-1 reverses against Southampton and Chelsea as United suffered their traditional autumn wobble. In fact, Keane missed so many games that he only played in two home Premiership matches before Christmas.

### QUOTES OF THE WEEK

- "It was the proudest moment of my career. I have won many great tournaments around the world, I have won five majors but nothing like this. This is very special" - Seve Ballesteros after the European team he captained had retained the Ryder Cup against the United States.
- "I would really like to play in the 1999 match" - Ballesteros, announcing hours after the match that he did not wish to be captain again next time.
- "He [Seve] was not a captain, he was like a father for us. We put our hands on the clubs but he was the one who played the shots" - Ignacio Garrido, a European Ryder Cup rookie.
- "I stalled it [the car] in the pits, which is just pathetic" - Damon Hill, blaming himself for not finishing in the points in the Luxembourg Grand Prix.
- "Rugby union is a man's game played by men - it is not a sport for cissies and I suggest that every club comes to terms with that" - Alex Evans, Cardiff's coaching director, after Tony Rees was suspended for 90 days for kicking an opponent.



هنا من الادل

# Masters of Rangers await Liverpool

Liverpool, Aston Villa and Chelsea, three of England's survivors in this season's European knock-out competitions, will all start their next ties away from home.

Nick Harris reports.

Liverpool, who overcame Celtic in the first round of the Uefa Cup on Tuesday, were given a difficult second-round tie when they were drawn against Strasbourg, the French side who eliminated Rangers.

Aston Villa, who beat Bordeaux in the second round, were drawn against Athletic Bilbao of Spain, while Chelsea, who progressed to the last 16 of the European Cup-Winners' Cup on Thursday, were rewarded with a tie against Tromsø, the Norwegian side.

Liverpool and Villa travel to their first leg matches on 21 October, with Chelsea going to Norway two days later.

Roy Evans, the Liverpool manager, was not unhappy with his side's draw, but said: "Looking around the rest of the draw there aren't many teams left that you'd say 'I fancy them'. I've seen [Strasbourg] a few times last season and they were clearly a good side, technically excellent. Although they haven't started this season very well you'll find that they'll raise their game to play against us."

Aston Villa's manager, Brian Little, will be returning to Bilbao 20 years after playing

against them in the same competition. Villa overcame Bilbao then, but Little expects a tougher contest this time. "The tournament is hard and a lot of people will look upon Bilbao as a threat, having claimed a hell of a scalp in knocking out Sampdoria," he said.

Ruud Gullit, whose Chelsea side perhaps has the easiest passage, thinks that, although they will need the right attitude, having two Norwegians, Tore Andre Flo and Frode Grodas, in their squad "will be an advantage to us and ensure that we don't have too many surprises". Whether the Cup-Winners' Cup tie later this month will be played in Tromsø's 12,000-capacity Alftheim stadium near the Arctic Circle, or in Oslo, has yet to be decided.

The conquerors of Leicester and Arsenal, Atletico Madrid and PAOK Salonika, have been drawn against each other, with the Greek side travelling to Spain for the first leg. Uefa have ordered Spartak Moscow and Sion to replay their first-round, second-leg match. The Swiss side drew 2-2 in Moscow on Wednesday, losing 3-2 on aggregate, but the crossbars on the Russian goals were too low.

Manchester United's Champions' League match with Kosice at Old Trafford is likely to be put back 24 hours to 27 November to allow live television coverage of that match and Newcastle's game in Barcelona, which will be played on 26 November as scheduled.



Chelsea's Tore Andre Flo, after helping to overcome Slovan Bratislava on Thursday, faces a journey back home to Norway in the Cup-Winners' Cup second round when the west Londoners visit Tromsø in the first leg

Photograph: Empics

**Uefa Cup second-round draw**  
Ajax (Neth) v Udinese (It)  
Spartak Brno (Cze) v Dinamo Tbilisi (Geor)  
Metz (Fr) v Karlsruhe (Ger)  
Strasbourg (Fr) v Liverpool  
Internazionale (It) v Lyon (Fr)  
Rapid Vienna v Rapid Munich  
MTK Budapest v Croatia Zagreb  
Spartak Moscow or Sion (Swit) v Real Valladolid (Sp)  
Schalke 04 (Ger) v Anderlecht (Bel)  
Aarhus (Den) v Twente Enschede (Neth)  
Atletico Madrid (Sp) v Aston Villa  
Austria (Aust) v OFK Beograd (Ser)  
Steaua Bucharest v Beasie (Fr)  
Rotor Volgograd (Rus) v Lazio (It)

Atletico Madrid v PAOK Salonika (Gr)  
Club Brugge (Bel) v VfL Bochum (Ger)  
First legs to be played 21 October, second legs 4 November

**Cup-Winners' Cup second-round draw**  
Tromsø (Nor) v Chelsea  
Germinal Ekeren (Bel) v VfB Stuttgart (Ger)  
Lokomotiv Moscow v Kocaelispor (Turk)  
Shakhtar Donetsk (Ukr) v Vitoria (It)  
Real Saragosa (Sp) v FC Copenhagen  
AEK Athens v Sturm Graz (Aust)  
Nice (Fr) v Slovan Prague  
Prijedorje (Bosnia) v Slovan (Slov)  
FC Kerkrade (Neth)  
First legs to be played 23 October, second legs 6 November

## SCOTTISH LEAGUE

### Aitken given vote of confidence

The Aberdeen manager Roy Aitken has been given a vote of confidence from the club's directors, even though his side have won only two league games in 27 and go into today's game at St Johnstone at the bottom of the Premier Division.

The executive vice chairman Stewart Milne yesterday insisted that Aitken's position was not under threat, but he was critical of the playing staff, accusing them of making basic errors.

"But satisfaction with attractive football turns into frustration when the team goes from dominating major parts of each game to missing good chances and committing basic errors."

"As Roy has said before, far too often we're suffering from avoidable basic defensive errors and failing to take advantage of the good opportunities we're creating."

"We need to achieve greater individual and collective responsibility on the field. We need to achieve much greater communication and support between the players on the field. We need to achieve full concentration on the part of all players for the entire game and every game."

"If we can do that, we will stop making the avoidable errors at the back and start taking more of the goal-making opportunities we have been creating."

Milne added: "Roy is not complacent and is fully aware that much still needs to be done to ensure we get the positive result I know our players are more than capable of providing."

"Roy and his team are addressing those areas. They need improving and the spirit and the team feeling among the players has improved significantly. That culminated this week in the team-building exercise Roy initiated by taking the players away from home."

"We're confident we will reap the rewards of this additional activity tomorrow and throughout the rest of this season."

"But everyone involved in the club, including the fans, must recognise the collective responsibility for our current and future league position."

"We know we have the attributes and the character required to turn things around here at Pittodrie. It's up to each and every one of us to ensure we do so go on and achieve the success that we and the fans want and deserve."

Milne insists that at no time has the manager's future been discussed by the board.

Aitken, who has firmly refused to discuss his position this week, said: "It was a constructive meeting but all our weekly meetings are."

The St Johnstone manager Paul Sturrock, a former international colleague of Aitken's, is expecting a rough ride today.

"Aberdeen will be up for this game and they'll have to get back on the rails sooner or later," he said.

"They've been playing better than people have given them credit for and they'll be very tough opposition."

"With the quality of individuals in the Aberdeen team you'd have to say that they're in a false position."

## Major weekend fixtures and pools check

Today

3.0 uncut start

**FA Cup First Round**  
1 Arsenal v Chelsea  
2 Bolton v Aston Villa  
3 Coventry v Leeds  
4 Man Utd v Manchester United  
5 Newcastle v Tottenham  
6 Sheffield Wed v Everton  
7 Southampton v West Ham  
8 Wrexham v Blackpool

**Nationwide League**

**First Division**  
9 Birmingham v Crewe  
10 Bradford v Wolves  
11 Ipswich v Manchester City  
12 QPR v Charlton  
13 Reading v Sunderland  
14 Stockport v Portsmouth  
15 Stoke v Bury  
16 Swindon v Port Vale  
17 Telford v Northwich  
18 West Ham v Oxford

**Second Division**

19 Bolton v Wrexham  
20 Burnley v Wycombe  
21 Chesterfield v Bournemouth  
22 Fulham v Doncaster  
23 Gillingham v Bristol City  
24 Grimsby v Wigan  
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30 York v Plymouth

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**Fourth Division**



## Adams returns ready to play mind games

At the end of Euro 96, Tony Adams was a physical and emotional wreck. His personal life was ravaged by alcoholism and his career was threatened by a knee injury. Fourteen months on he is enjoying a renaissance.

Adams talked to our football correspondent about Arsenal's rise to the top of the Premiership, England's match in Rome, and his new outlook on life.

He may have given up the bottle, begun taking piano lessons and writing poetry, but Tony Adams still relishes a contest. The difference is that, following the awakening of his intellectual side, he is now prepared to engage in a mental duel as well as a physical one.

This change is quickly apparent in any interview situation. Adams was never an enthusiastic subject, the criticism he received for his alcohol-fuelled indiscretions, and the cruel lampooning of his game, turned him against the media long ago. He remains hostile with all but his closest media confidants but, while once he reacted with brief, obvious answers, now he turns the interview into a contest, querying questions, questioning assumptions, looking, always, for the perceived traps. This is not entirely a bad thing as it does make the interviewer think carefully about the questions posed.

Asked for a "thumbnail sketch" of himself after training yesterday he says he "has not the intellect" to answer; asked if English players and teams tend to go for a win even when they only need a draw he says "You expect me to speak for everybody?" and asked how long it will take to regain his best form he pauses, perhaps thinking that answering will betray a belief that he is not at his best, slowly repeats the question, then answers, "Two weeks? Three or four years? In 10 years I'll be a half-decent player."

The last question is valid. Having been troubled for 18 months by a knee injury that, according to Arsène Wenger, the Arsenal manager, threatened his career, he has

returned at a crucial time for club and country. Today he captains the Premiership leaders against Barnsley at Highbury. Next Saturday, the day after his 31st birthday, he will lead England in Rome. A point will take England to France next summer and, injuries and form permitting, give Adams his first experience of the World Cup finals.

Yet he has played only five games this season and has only represented England twice in the 13 months since Glenn Hoddle took over. On Tuesday he was among those at fault when PAOK Salonika scored the goal which ended Arsenal's Uefa Cup campaign. His form is a legitimate "matter of public interest".

To be fair, he adds: "My form is fine - I'm working on it. My first game back was good, my second not so good. I always strive to play my best but players have high points and low points, that's only natural."

"I viewed losing to Salonika just the way I did losing to Wrex-

ham in the first round of the FA Cup in 1992. If you are going to get knocked out, you are better off doing it early on so you can concentrate on the other trophies. My worst one was losing in the semi-final to Tottenham [in 1991]. We had given all that energy only to fall at the final hurdle."

Today's game will be his 316th for Arsenal and, before his "change of life" (that is, giving up the booze) he might have found it difficult to get motivated. "In the past I might have thought 'it's only Barnsley' as it can go a bit flat after so many games. But I've realised it won't last for ever: one day the legs stop running. There are two ways to react, you can either hang up the boots or try and prolong it as long as possible. I am doing that, I am seizing the day. Having been sitting on my arse frustrated for a year it's easy to roll up the sleeves now."

BY GLENN MOORE

Arsenal under Wenger has helped. "It's lovely driving into work knowing there is no fear attached. You don't get put under pressure, it is very relaxed."

This does not reflect too well on the Highbury regimes of George Graham and, possibly, Bruce Rioch, though Adams added: "Some people still need a kick up the backside and there are other people on the staff that do that."

Adams used to do a fair bit of shouting himself but now he is more likely to have a quiet word. Either way he remains a significant figure at Highbury. "He is a big influence," Wenger said. "He is not just a good player but also a good team player. He is sensitive to what is going on and knows when there are problems on the field and outside. He does not report to me with them; he and the team can sort them out between them. There is a mutual respect in this team which I have not found before. Nor have I met a player as mentally strong."

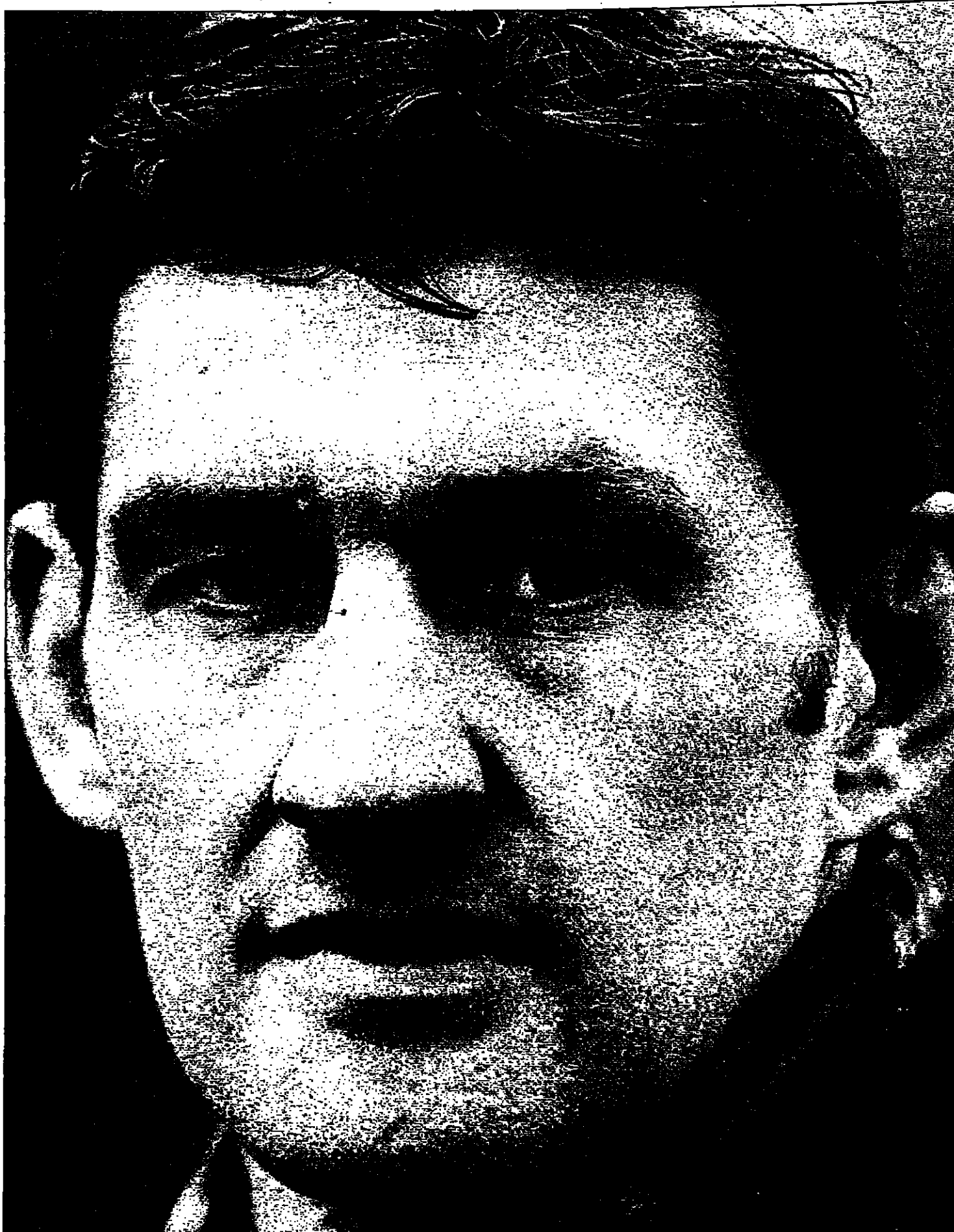
"He is at an important age, one when players think about life. He has decided to combat his problems and it has given him maturity."

And so to Rome for, in all likelihood, his 48th cap and 11th as captain. He has never lost as captain. "I don't count the penalties after the Germany semi-final. The game was 1-1. They'll be looking to win but so will we. If you look to draw you might lose, if look to win you might draw."

"We have always had passion. There is not a better country in the world for commitment and strength, but we now have brain and brawn. Terry gave us the knowledge and Glenn has added his own bits and pieces. Dennis Bergkamp said they always thought of the English as 'strong but stupid'."

"We have good young players here, there has been a blossoming of talent. We have tended to put foreign players on a pedestal, both players and media. Now, working with them day in and day out, we can see some are special but some are not. They are individuals, like us."

Adams has always reflected on his football but now does so in his life. "It helped me to look at myself as a player so it should help me in my personal life," he said. "There are softer options and I used to take them. I don't now."



Tony Adams: 'Having been sitting on my arse frustrated for a year it's easy to roll up the sleeves now'

Photograph: Robert Hallam

## Venables' rampant Soccerroos stay unbeaten with Tunis triumph

### Australia

Terry Venables' Australian side completed their warm-up for next month's World Cup qualifying play-offs by strolling to a straightforward 3-0 win over Tunisia in a friendly in Tunis on Wednesday.

It was the Soccerroos' 12th match without defeat since the former England manager took over as coach of the national team. He gave a full debut to the Leeds United midfielder Harry Kewell, who set up the third goal for Matthew Bingley. The other goals came

from Tenerife's Aurelio Vidmar and Mark Viduka of Croatia Zagreb, who is back in favour after declining to play in the Oceania Zone qualifying games.

Tunisia are one of five African nations who have already qualified for the finals, but they were well beaten by an Australian selection missing several regular players, including Aston Villa's Mark Bosnich and West Ham's Stan Lazaridis.

Venables' men face a two-leg play-off against still undecided Asian opponents for a place in France. Kevin Muscat, John Aloisi and Robbie Slater were other English-based players in his line-up.

### Colombia

The Colombians, who have already qualified for the World Cup finals, may have a familiar face in their team in France next summer. They have recalled the eccentric goalkeeper Rene Higuita after an 18-month absence for Wednesday's friendly in Norway.

Higuita has been absent from the team since pulling out of the squad shortly before the start of the qualifying campaign early last year, claiming he was not fit enough for international football.

Since then he has been sacked by the Medellin club, Atletico Nacional, for repeatedly missing training, while last year his house in Medellin was bombed by unidentified attackers; he was not at home at the time.

A move to the Mexican club, Veracruz, appears to have restored Higuita's form, despite his club's poor results. Farid Mondragon, his replacement in the Colombian side, has suffered a miserable run of form this year, hence the recall for Higuita.

### United States

This is a busy weekend for the former Everton and Portsmouth player, Predrag Radosavljevic. The Yugoslav born midfielder is now a naturalised citizen of the United States, and was due to play for his adopted country in last night's World Cup qualifier against Jamaica at the RFK

stadium in Washington DC. Tonight his destination is the Arrowhead stadium in Kansas City, where he will play for the Wizards against Colorado Rapids in the first round of the Major League Soccer play-offs. "It's tough, I'm going to have to find the energy for both games," the 34-year-old said on Thursday.

### France

Fabrizio Ravanelli will make his Marseille debut at home to Toulouse tonight, but the Italian is unlikely to play the full 90 minutes. "We're not going to ask too much of him, because he's not at his peak physically," the coach, Roland Courbis, said of his £5.35m signing from Middlesbrough.

"A lot is expected of me - notably that I should immediately score a first goal," Ravanelli said.



Home-grown players wounded Juventus as far as the soreline was concerned on Wednesday night, but it was Manchester United's Scandinavian backbone (Schmeichel, Berg, Johnsen, Sol-skjær even) that stood firm against the Old Lady's wiles. Alex Ferguson clearly admires Norwegian and Danish footballers, who represent the best value pound for pound (particularly so in the case of John Jensen and Jan Molby) of our foreign imports.

There are more than 20 playing in the Premiership, and apparently plenty more where they came from. The young striker Lasse Olsen has made such an impact at the Norwegian Premier League side Stromsgodset that he is expected to play a pivotal part in the impending Norwegian Cup final against Valerengen, and his manager, Dag Vidar Kristoffersen, believes Olsen will eventually follow the Tors, Jans and Egils down that well-trodden path to the English Premiership.

However, British interest is also focused on another product of Norway's footballing expertise which is influential, versatile, and (in footballing terms at least) extremely cheap.

Certainly, £10,000 sounds a snip, but the catch is that it comes packed in a box, has a plug on the end, and goes by the very un-Norwegian name of Tacticus. In short, it is a computer system; not just any old computer system mind, but (according to the Norwegian Trade Council) "the most advanced and complete football analysis tool on the market".

A sense of objectivity is plainly called for, but it is a view endorsed by Kristoffersen, whose team began using the system this season in an effort to end their season-long existence; the Cup finalists are also second in the Premier League, and Kristoffersen attributes much of their success to Tacticus.

Without getting too technical, the beauty of Tacticus - apparently - is that it allows a manager to analyse and edit a match both from the team's and the indi-

## Stats, no lies and video tape: Norway's latest footballing export



OLIVIA BLAIR

vidual player's viewpoint, and presents the information as easy-to-understand statistics and video graphics. Kristoffersen claims player development is the biggest plus: "Show a player his mistakes rather than simply tell him he's making them, and there's more chance of him putting things right." He is even considering installing a television in the dressing-room and using the system at half-time.

The Norwegian national team has been using the system since the early 1990s, and the proof of that particular pudding is in the eating: Norway qualified for USA 94 at England's expense, and for France 98 at a canter. But if this system is all it is cracked up to be, why is it not top of the shopping list of the Fergusons

and Dalglishes of this world?

Actually, it might well be. Many Premier League clubs apparently showed an interest when the system was presented on recent FA coaching courses, but do not want that interest made public, prompting a claim from Kristoffersen that "English clubs are like fortresses: they don't want to share anything".

He claims the Norwegians admire English football for its pace and basic skill, but reckon it lacks a lot in organisation. That is where he thinks Tacticus might prove its worth. The only club manager who will admit to using Tacticus is Crewe's Dario Gradi. Instead of having to flip through an entire tape using time code, he now has a sophisticated editing system that will record the game's key features and serve as concrete video evidence when he assesses a player's performance.

Tacticus is already used by the Swiss side Grasshopper and the Estonian national side (who must have a blank tape from their home game against Scotland). However, its popularity in this country will largely depend on English football's willingness to embrace new technology. Of course the purists will always prefer the beautiful game to remain a simple game rather than one over-burdened with facts, figures, stats and systems.

But Gradi denies that Tacticus is a substitute for good old-fashioned communication between player and manager. He stresses: "It's simply an aid, albeit the single most important coaching aid that I have. We used to have someone sit in the stands and monitor individual players, but this presents all the evidence in black and white, or better still, in colour."

Evidently, video use has its place in football, if not yet among the refereeing fraternity. Terry Venables' wife admits he studies videos avidly and often determines his tactics accordingly. The opposite, however, is true of Barry Fry who even admits he "doesn't do tactics"... and we all know who is the more successful.

## Early signs of promise forever fading into pell-mell falls from grace

A West Bromwich Albion supporter surveying the Football League tables on the morning of Sunday 7 September will have been struck by an unpleasant sense of impending doom. There, perched atop the Nationwide First Division were our team by virtue of a dogged 1-0 home victory over Reading the previous Saturday afternoon which had extended their unbeaten start to the season to seven games. We have been in this position before - rarely, granted - and rather than signalling a long-over-

due revival in the club's fortunes, it has always been the prelude to a series of disappointments, culminating in either relegation or loss of manager, by mutual consent or otherwise.

West Brom last topped the old Second Division in January 1989. Brian Talbot's team earning plaudits for their fluid, attacking football. A year on, they had returned to the increasingly familiar relegation dogfight and capitulated to non-League Woking at home in the third round of the FA Cup. Exit Talbot.

Enter Bobby Gould, a pattern of play which relied solely on the long-distance kicking abilities of the centre-halves, and a boardroom policy of buying cheap and selling to the highest bidder. That resulted in relegation to the Third Division for the first time in the club's 100-plus year history.

A woefully misplaced sense of optimism greeted the start of the 1992-93 campaign, buoyed by the firm belief that the club was far too grand to spend long in the company of such footballing minnows as Chester or Exeter. Gould had introduced a red away strip, a colour he sombrely announced would

have a powerful psychological effect on opponents. He was not wrong: every team in the division seemed to raise their game whenever the Albion visited.

Come May, the side were anchored in mid-table and route maps to Preston and all points north were being recycled. During the final game of the season, at Shrewsbury's Gay Meadow, a group of fans paraded around the pitch carrying a coffin on which they had painted the words "Bobby Gould RIP - Rot In Pigshit". Exit Gould.

Ossie Ardiles led Albion back to the newly christened Football League Division One the next season and promptly resigned, to take over at Spurs. The club's last flirtation with promotion was in the winter of '95, a brief residency terminated by a run of 14 successive defeats.

The latest spell on the division's summit lasted a mere week. But it has since been followed by baulking performances against Swindon and Reading, and the team has remained in the top three. Yet the faithful remain sceptical.

A pragmatic sort, the current manager, Ray Harford, has insisted that this side is not good enough to sustain a prolonged push for the Premiership. His reasoning may well be that his squad is acutely vulnerable, particularly as the only two members of it with genuine Premiership class, striker Paul Peschisolidi and midfielder playmaker Richard Snedkes, are still engaged in contractual disputes with the club.

He would, however, be justified in pointing to the fate of his predecessors, and firmly predicting that something, somewhere is bound to go horribly wrong very soon.

### FAN'S EYE VIEW

No 226 WEST BROMWICH ALBION

BY PAUL REES









Saturday 4 October 1997

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# Lower orders fuel football's biggest boom for 40 years

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Football attendances are on course to reach their highest levels for 18 years. As Paul Newman reports, the latest boom has been fuelled entirely by clubs outside the Premiership

The financial gap between the haves and have-nots may still be widening, but football's ever-rising profile at the highest level is having a beneficial effect throughout the game.

Contrary to a widespread

view that public interest has been focusing on the FA Carling Premiership at the expense of other areas of the game, the rise in attendances this season is down entirely to the Nationwide League.

On the evidence of the season so far, the professional game in England and Wales is poised to enjoy its biggest percentage increase in league gates for 40 years.

With 20 per cent of the season's league matches played, attendance figures for the Premiership and Nationwide League show that gates are on course to reach a season's total

of 24.5 million, an increase of 1.7m on last year and the highest figure for 18 years.

The figures, compiled exclusively for the *Independent*, show that the Nationwide League is set to welcome through its turnstiles its highest number of supporters for more than a quarter of a century.

Premiership gates are marginally down on last year, but the Nationwide League First Division is heading for a total attendance of 8.4m, which would be the highest since the 1959-60 season and an increase of more than 20 per cent on last year. Only 12 years ago, the total for the Second Division (now the First Division) was 3.6m, less than half this season's projected figure.

While the three clubs relegated from the Premiership - Sunderland, Middlesbrough and Nottingham Forest - have provided a significant boost to First Division attendances, other clubs are showing significant increases, with 18 of the division's 24 clubs enjoying higher gates. In the Second Division 19 of the 24 clubs are showing an increase, as are 14 of the Third Division's 24 members.

The figures buck other major trends in the game, which have seen more and more emphasis placed on the Premiership. This year's annual report by Deloitte & Touche showed that the financial gap between the Premier League and Nationwide League has continued to widen with the Premier League now accounting for two thirds of the game's revenue. Combined with the "Bosman" ruling, which has cut the amount of transfer fees going into the lower divisions, this appeared to spell doom for smaller clubs, but the attendance figures will give encouragement.

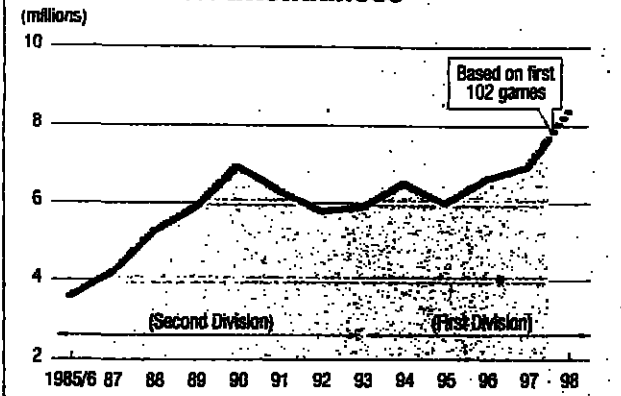
Although outside factors may have had an influence - the feel-good factor since the election, extra cash in pockets



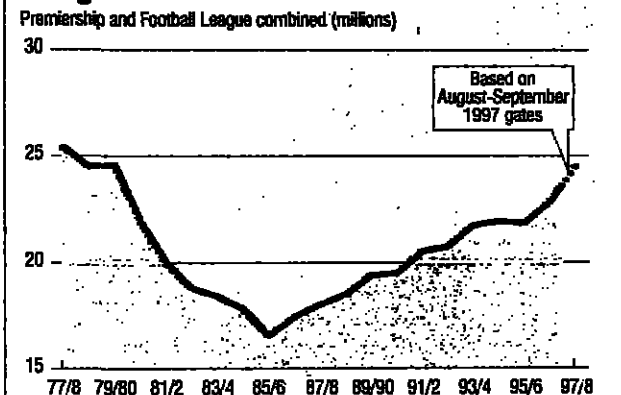
Fans at Sunderland's new Stadium of Light. The Wearside club have the best support outside the Premiership, with their gates up this season by nearly 60 per cent to an average of 31,783. Last season in the Premiership they averaged 20,067

Photograph: Raul Dixon/North News

## First Division attendances



## League attendances



thanks to building society flotations, and even the Indian summer - these are unlikely to account for the majority of the increase. The game's growing popularity stems largely from the Premiership's rising profile, helped by the recruitment of

many of the world's best players thanks to television money.

Part of the reason for the increase in Nationwide League gates is undoubtedly the difficulty many fans find in buying tickets for Premiership matches: 10 of the Premiership's 20 clubs

consistently fill their grounds. Clubs have also been making great efforts with community schemes, family spectator areas and offers of cheap tickets, while the decline of hooliganism has probably been the biggest factor of all. A post-war low total

attendance figure of 16.5m was reached in the 1985-86 season, which followed one of the worst summers in the game's history with the Heysel Stadium disaster and the Bradford fire.

Although the switch to all-seat stadiums in the wake of

the Taylor Report has restricted capacities, gates have steadily risen as hooliganism has declined and grounds have become safer and more comfortable.

Research by Brian Sears  
Attendance details, page 25

## Lewis primed for risk game against unpredictable Pole

Tonight's heavyweight title fight between the champion Lennox Lewis and the controversial contender Andrzej Golota has the makings of a classic encounter where anything could happen. Glyn Leach, in Atlantic City, weighs up the odds.

An air of tension cuts through the pall of humidity engulfing the New Jersey coastal gaming Gomorrah of Atlantic City where, at around midnight tonight local time, Lennox

Lewis and Andrzej Golota will lock horns over the World Boxing Council heavyweight title, a prize in name only.

This is one of those increasingly rare fights that is so compelling, so competitive and potentially explosive that it needs no sanction. For both contestants, this fight is about pride, about erasing the mistakes of the past and earning the right to a future. Tonight's fight has the makings of a classic heavyweight encounter.

The consensus is that when these two big punchers step into the ring, anything could happen. The contestants are of dissimilar character, yet evenly matched. Both stand close to

6ft 5in, at Thursday's weigh-in they both scaled 175lb. They have 25 knock-outs each, the placid Lewis from 32 fights (one defeat), the aggressive Golota from 30 fights (two defeats, both by disqualification), and are medalists from the 1988 Seoul Olympics (Lewis, gold at super heavy; Golota, bronze at heavyweight).

This will be Lewis's seventh world title fight, whereas his former sparring partner's previous biggest encounters were the brace of disqualification defeats against the former champion, Riddick Bowe, last year, where Golota led on the scorecards before repeated low blows caused his premature exit.

For Lewis, 32, a dramatic, resounding win must be the aim. Lewis is still remembered as the complacent fighter stopped in two rounds by Oliver McCall in September 1994 rather than the dreadnought who forced McCall to quit in their rematch. Lewis's first defence of his second reign found Henry Akinwande easily discouraged and, like McCall, his challenge terminated in round five.

Certainly, Lewis is underrated and under-valued in the USA. But is Golota over-rated? Has the continuing clamour for a white heavyweight champion blinded the Pole's new found army of admirers? Doubts about Golota, 29,

centre primarily on his ability to stay legal under pressure. But did his otherwise impressive performances against Bowe flatter to deceive? Bowe was overweight and under-prepared for their first fight, and came in weakened for the second. But in neither fight could Golota finish him off. Indeed, Bowe felled Golota in the second fight.

However, Golota may be a more complete all-rounder than Lewis. Certainly he is the more natural fighter. Lewis is a born athlete who selected boxing as his sport, but Golota is a hardened streetfighter "gone legit". Golota is hardly unskilled. He has fast hands and an excellent command of techniques that

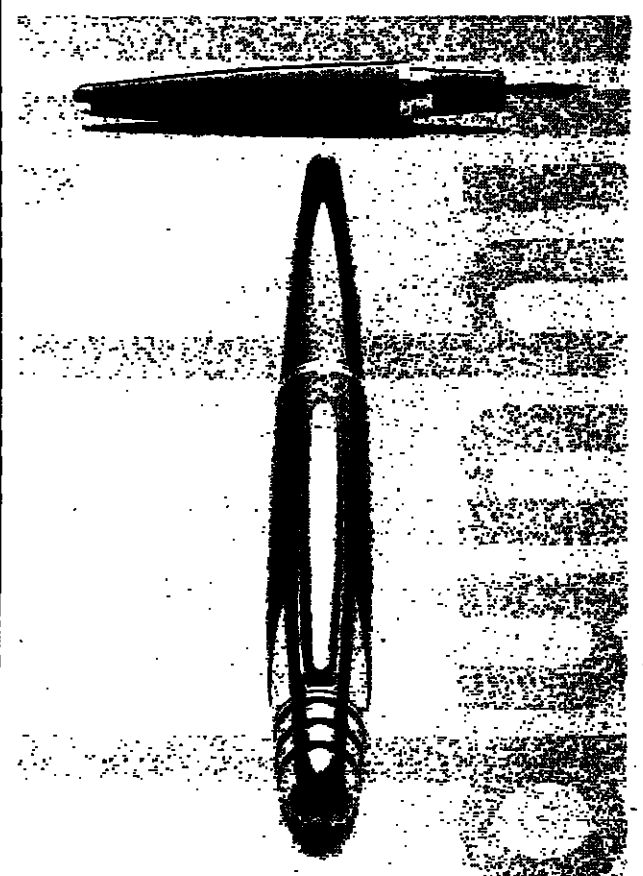
trouble Lewis: jabbing and body-punching. But Lewis's attributes could be the key to this fight: his own jab and his crushing right hand.

Each fighter will seek to take control quickly and each will take and push the other back, which could result in an ugly, mauling fight. But, under these circumstances, the stronger fighter should prevail and that man, I believe, is Lewis, once again around the fifth, by which time Golota should be demoralised enough either to be taken or, once again, to foul his way out of the fight. But the Pole will be dangerous for as long as he is in there and Lewis will know he has been in a battle.

## TALE OF THE TAPE

	Lewis	Golota
Weight	244lb	244lb
Height	6ft 5in (192cm)	6ft 4in (190cm)
Age	32	29
Reach	84 in (213cm)	81 in (206cm)
Chest (normal)	44 (112)	47 (119)
Chest (expanded)	46 (117)	51 (130)
Biceps	17 (43)	18 (46)
Forearm	15 (38)	12 (30)
Waist	34 (86)	38 (97)
Neck	15.5 (40)	19 (48)
Foot	12 (30)	12 (30)

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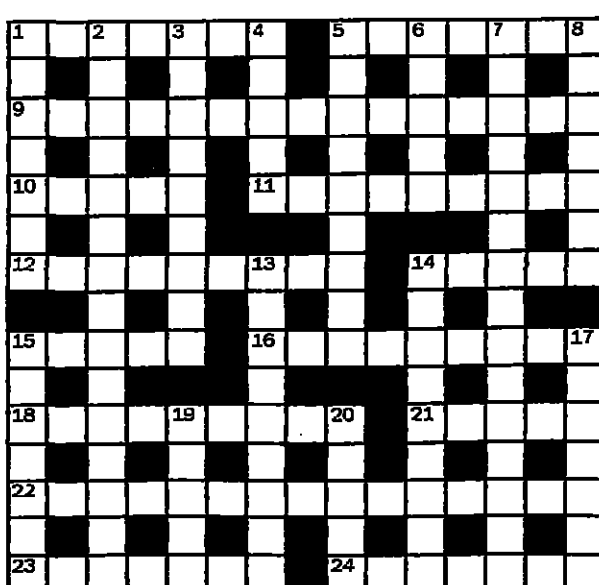
## THE INDEPENDENT CROSSWORD

No 3421, Saturday 4 October

By Spurious

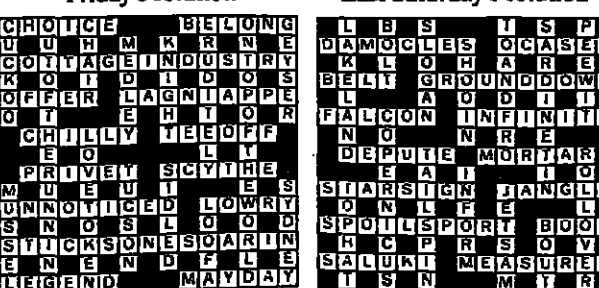
ACROSS

DOWN



Friday's solution

Last Saturday's solution



- 1 A person of doubtful character removes piano faster (7)
- 5 Root of worker's a doctor, but turned in another direction (7)
- 9 Backing military operation? (9, 6)
- 10 One of the chamber music items evoked by the old parrot-cry? (5)
- 11 Eminent Texan playing around over in Germany (9)
- 12 Mistake is concealed by the management initially using intimidatory tactics (9)
- 14 Quarrel witnessed by audience (5)
- 15 Cruise northwards, getting caught in storm (5)
- 16 Record shows caretaker originally involved in misuse of chlorine (9)
- 18 O-aspreys, for instance, a pair seemingly inseparable (4-5)
- 21 Feature of game in which two packs are used? (5)
- 22 They'll be getting ready to fight (9, 6)
- 23 Go before being caught in deeper entanglement (7)
- 24 Insult making old fellow take part in duel? (7)

- 1 Look left as you reach De Gaulle (7)
- 2 Fancied poetry identified by detailed reference? (7, 3, 5)
- 3 Where some go for a walk if tensed up? (9)
- 4 Discontinue feature of Latin grammar having introduced English (5)
- 5 Identification's carried by traditional performer representing bardic dream-time (9)
- 6 Place for statue in one church in New England (5)
- 7 A moving series of drawings (8, 7)
- 8 Recess in which meal's taken? (7)
- 13 Corporal staggering around in a trance (9)
- 14 Type that's ultimately innocuous, in fairness, when drunk (9)
- 15 Herring fillet and bread taken by politician with nothing to eat (7)
- 17 Means to move south-eastwards in a body (2, 5)
- 19 Note reverberating upwards to some extent (5)
- 20 Authority finding extracts from essays obscure (3-2)

The first five correct solutions to this week's puzzle opened next Thursday receive hand-drawn copies of the Oxford Dictionary of Quotations. Answers and winners' names will be published next Saturday. Send solutions to Saturday Crossword, E.O. Box 4018, The Independent, Canada Square, Canary Wharf, London E14 3SL. Please use the box number and postcode and give your own postcode. Last week's winners: M Kendrick, Porsboro; P Terry, Wokingham; P Murray, Millford; C Miller, Peterborough; A Daly, Lambourn.

## INSIDE ...

'My first game back was good, my second not so good. I always strive to play my best but players have high points and low points, that's only natural'

Tony Adams talks to Glenn Moore about his renaissance - Page 24

## IN MONDAY'S 20-PAGE SPORTS SECTION



'My skin needs the sunshine. The sun was always shining when I grew up in France. I find it gives me energy'

David Ginola tells Adam Szreter what makes him tick.

Plus: reports on all the weekend's Premiership football action, rugby union's European Cup and Richard Edmondson at the Arc de Triomphe

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## Looking back in anger

I hate "more in sorrow than in anger" conversations. These are the type where the person you are speaking to makes out that you have made a mistake but it was only to be expected.

Such a conversation took place at an awards ceremony hosted this week by the Association of British Insurers, the industry trade body.

A Scottish Amicable executive came to my table to take issue with the scathing comments in this column about the company's Bonus Bond, a fund which mimics the performance of the FTSE 100 share index. The column referred to the extremely heavy charges levied on the Bonus Bond, which are far in excess of those made for investors who put their money into similar tracker PEPs offered by, say, Legal & General and Garmore.

The bond is only available to ScotAm policyholders who receive a payout as part of the company's takeover by Prudential. "Well, of course, you must understand that the likely payout to policyholders is likely to be far less than minimum payments accepted by the Garmore and L&G schemes," was the gist of his sorrowful comments.

He is both right and wrong. The minimum contribution into L&G and Garmore is greater than the average of £550 to be paid to policyholders. But both those companies have confirmed they are happy to accept smaller regular premiums which cease after one or two months.

More important is another feature of the Bonus Bond. Here at *The Independent*, we ransacked our files to find the

original press release announcing details of this bond. We couldn't find one.

ScotAm tells me that it didn't send one out because it chose to direct mail only its million-odd policyholders with the details instead. It claims it didn't want to be inundated by applications from non-members. As if.

Even more interesting is the fact that ScotAm deals almost solely with independent financial advisers. To get round the problem of advisers complaining that it was poaching their clients, ScotAm has paid 3 per cent commission to advisers for every customer who responded to the bond, whether the IFA gave advice on it or not. In other words, an adviser with, say, 20 ScotAm clients all receiving the average £550 payout would receive £330 for doing so. In fact, many advisers will have scores of such clients: their commission will rise commensurately. That may explain why IFAs were not exactly raring to condemn the company for its lacklustre product.

I offer this story as a parable of the financial services industry today. If its members want to "honour" journalists, as this week's shindig in London was meant to be all about, the least they should do is not to presume on our stupidity.

It is still not too late for ScotAm and Prudential, its ultimate owner, to apologise for what appears to be a case of sharp practice.

They should also offer their money back to any aggrieved policyholder. And I write this more in anger than in sorrow.

## MONEY MAKEOVER

# Comfortable enough to enjoy retirement

Name: Edward Johnson  
Age: 74  
Occupation: Retired research chemist

**The problem:** When Mr Johnson retired nine years ago, he gave half of his retirement lump sum to his wife to invest as she pleased. She chose to invest in a balanced portfolio of unit trusts, PEPs, National Savings bonds and deposit accounts.

Mr Johnson invested his capital in a portfolio managed by Nat West. He invested £60,000 in 1988 and even though he withdrew £5,000 in 1996, the portfolio is worth only £69,000 (£45,000 in shares and £24,000 in PEPs). He is concerned that the portfolio is not performing well. While he received £86 in income in the past six months, the capital value fell by £1,544. Mr Johnson has an annual index-linked pension of £15,000 and he and his wife have full state pensions. They live comfortably on this income and so the provision of extra income from investments is not so important.

The Johnsons also have £4,000 in a current account earning no interest. Mr Johnson wants to make the most of his available capital, living comfortably and leaving some of the couple's assets to their two sons.

**The adviser:** Julie Lord, managing director of Cavendish Financial Management, Summit House, Windsor Place, Cardiff (01222 665588). She is also chairman of the Institute of Financial Planning, the professional body for financial planners.

**The advice:** Mr Johnson's portfolio should be redesigned to concentrate on growth only. If he needs



Going for growth: Edward Johnson wants to make the most of his available capital so he and his wife can live in comfort and leave some assets to their sons

Photograph: John Lawrence

more money in the future he can always sell shares or units to provide funds. This will allow him to make use of his Capital Gains Tax (CGT) allowance of £6,500 per year to obtain tax-free growth.

This may not be necessary as he already has £19,000 in deposit/current accounts and does not see the need for large cash sums except for holidays which are planned in advance. Four thousand pounds is too much to keep in a current account. I recommend that part of this capital is reinvested when his portfolio

is reviewed. The balance could be placed in a high-interest paying current account.

I suggest the Johnsons co-ordinate their portfolios a little more closely. Mr Johnson's portfolio is too small to be invested in direct equities and there seems little value in paying annual management fees for only a small number of different holdings which are changed infrequently. Better value and performance might be achieved by consolidation.

PEP allowances should be maximised for both of them before 1999

so that any returns they do receive in the future are tax free. Deposits should form the foundation of the overall portfolio, with well-performing, consistent unit and investment trusts generating the growth.

Mr Johnson asked about the suitability of tracker fund investments. These follow share movements in the FTSE 100 or the All-Market share indexes. I don't think this would be inappropriate for part of his portfolio, but I would caution him about being too bullish, as indices can fall dramatically.

The Johnsons would like to leave their estate to their sons rather than to the taxman. Their house is worth £160,000 and total assets £322,000. They have left everything to each other in their wills and so the inheritance tax liability on their estate is approximately £43,000. Both have all rate bands of £215,000. Rewriting their wills will ensure that both allowances are utilised and thus assets to a maximum of £430,000 can be passed to the beneficiaries free of inheritance tax.

If Mrs Johnson dies before Mr Johnson, he will manage financially because he will have his pension income and all the capital investments. However, if Mr Johnson were to die first, I cannot be certain that Mrs Johnson would be comfortable on only half Mr Johnson's pension and the income from the portfolio. I would like to produce a cashflow analysis of this situation to ensure that, whatever happens, both of them will remain financially secure for the rest of their lives.

The only other event that could destroy the Johnsons' long-term financial security would be if they required nursing care. This can cost between £18,000 and £25,000 a year each and would affect their available capital very quickly.

The Johnsons could set aside a fixed amount of capital to pay the costs in the future should they ever be needed, they could insure themselves against the risk, or they could discuss the matter with their sons, who might insure the risk in return for a safer inheritance.

## UNDER THE SPOTLIGHT/BRITANNIA CHILDREN'S FIRSTSAVER

# Account offers good value, but watch the cashcard

**The product:** Britannia Children's FirstSaver Account.

**The deal:** Mindful of the old Jesuit saying: "Give me a child by the age of seven and he is mine for life," FirstSaver offers 7 per cent gross on a £1 minimum balance, rising to 7.25 per cent gross at £500, reaching 7.5 per

cent gross at £5,000-plus. The account can be in the child's name if he or she is aged between seven and 17. There is a cashcard option for savers aged 12 and over.

Between ages 12 and 14 the daily withdrawal limit is £10, rising to £50 between 14 and

15 and £100 for those aged 16 to 17.

Britannia will pay extra amounts each year based on its loyalty bonus scheme.

**Drawbacks and risks:** The bonus payments are no great shakes. A saver with £2,000 would have received an extra

£4.40 last year. Most savings accounts will contain less. If your kids are the sort who like free magazines, badges, special offers, record tokens and the like, look elsewhere.

Giving teenagers a card may be risky, particularly if they decide to clean out the account.

The rate, though good today, is variable and Britannia may change it. Some investment-based products, albeit riskier, may offer better returns over 10 or 15 years. Young savers will get some cash but no huge free share payouts if Britannia demutualises.

**Plus points:** The account is easy to understand and offers competitive rates to young savers.

**The verdict:** Straightforward no-frills product which offers good value for money.

**Marks out of five:** Three.

— Nic Cicutti

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Candid camera:  
People who  
claim on their  
permanent  
health  
insurance may  
be secretly  
photographed  
by private eyes



Photograph  
Philip Meach

## Insurance spies hover on the legal line

Hidden cameras, phone calls from strangers who lie to you and secretly tape the conversation, medical records passed to unlicensed, unregulated individuals with no medical experience, who will later use them in court - it's all par for the course among health insurers.

Andrew Verity stakes them out.

Men in dark vans with tinted windows parked outside your house for days are not just the devices of the paparazzi or Roger Cook's investigative team. They are techniques endorsed by some of the most high-profile companies in the insurance business to check up on those whom they suspect of a false claim.

Documents circulating among some of the country's leading insurers, and passed exclusively to *The Independent*, reveal just how far many insurers are willing to go to make sure policyholders are not cheating them, even when they have no substantial evidence that there is a claim.

The key document comes from the PHI Forum, an association for providers of permanent health insurance. These policies pay out up to 75 per cent of the policyholder's income if a long-term disability makes work impossible. The biggest providers involved include Black Horse Life, Allied Dunbar, Norwich Union, Friends

Provident, Lincoln, Royal & Sun Alliance, Permanent Insurance and Zurich Life, who sell more than 80,000 policies every year between them.

The document reveals the insurers' criteria for how to choose a case suitable for a private investigator.

The forum recommends: "Some diseases predispose themselves to private investigation. These are the diseases that do not have precise medical evidence. We would include ME, RSI, muscular skeletal [diseases] including backs, fibromyalgia, mental illness and stress."

Mental health groups see the document's instant suspicion of the mentally ill and its apparent disregard for rights of privacy as outrageous. June McKenrow, director of the Mental Health Foundation, says: "It continues to be open season on those with mental health problems."

It is not malingers alone who are spied on. William Lyons, 53, who permanently injured his back while working as a civilian for Durham police, was awarded £45,000 by a court in July after a woman with a secret camera in her bag tricked her way into his house. She tried and failed to get evidence showing Mr Lyons was not really injured. He was.

Mark Evans, a financial consultant from Aberlilly, in Gwent, was last year awarded £350,000 in a similar out-of-court settlement.

When the private eyes offer their services, the insurers look for special skills: "Language skills. The ability to operate

Insurance companies that provide permanent health insurance (PHI) insist their controversial methods are vital to safeguard genuine policyholders from those who claim fraudulently.

According to leading provider Unum, nearly one in 20 of those claiming is fraudulent. Payouts, of up to 75 per cent of salary until retirement, are potentially vast. If false claims were overlooked, premiums would rise massively. Examples of fraud include:

■ An east London businessman claimed a car accident left him with a back disability. His insurance company asked him to visit an assessment centre in London. His GP protested he could not travel that far. A visitor hired by the insurance company then discovered he'd planned a holiday in Spain.

■ A policyholder claiming from his PHI cover for back injury was found to have

gone bungee-jumping while on holiday in Thailand.

■ A Chorlton cabbie who claimed £75,000 after arguing that whiplash injuries from a car smash in 1988 meant he could no longer work was filmed plying for trade at Manchester Airport.

■ In some cases, doctors are prepared to initiate false claims, including a Stockport GP who is alleged to have written bogus reports on road accident victims and pocketed the money. He is on trial at Manchester Crown Court.

But some insurers still question the need to hire private eyes so quickly simply because a patient has a condition that is difficult to verify. Companies such as General Assurance are using health visitors who can help claimants in their rehabilitation before the claim becomes fraudulent.

## INTERNET INVESTOR



ROBIN  
AMLÖT

Not as easy to read as a book, but a lot more up to date

Big, isn't it? The web that is. And getting bigger. Americans, who like to work this sort of thing out, reckon that one new website is being created every few minutes. Fortunately, at least 95 per cent of what's on the web need not detain us. The trick is locating the 5 per cent which will answer our questions, advise us and tell us what we need to know to be able to make our investment decisions.

Assuming you are connected to the Internet and are ready to become a road warrior on the information superhighway, you are likely to realise fairly quickly that the highway you are on is a touch short on signposts. Most of those that do exist have a distinct bias towards the USA, a fact which becomes quickly apparent if you try to use most of the so-called search engines on the web. So where do we find out where we want to go today?

A handful of websites offer a general introduction to personal finance with advice and information, but you may feel that you could just as easily get this kind of approach from a book which is likely to be more portable, more easy to read than a computer screen and which requires only the power supply of your own mind. If all you want is a directory of the personal finance sites worth checking out, there are two potential starting points.

Moneyworld includes a directory of links to personal finance websites which is one of the most comprehensive and well-organised of its type, with brief descriptions of each site to guide you. Financial Information Net Directory (Find) is a straightforward directory of financial services websites of interest to a UK audience.

What the best general personal finance websites can offer you, which a book cannot, are up-to-date prices, performance and statistical data which you can analyse and manipulate.

Interactive Investor and Moneyworld both include performance data

and a comprehensive set of links to other sites and both are free to access although Interactive Investor does require you to register as a user.

Interactive Investor allows you to search its news database of corporate press releases and also has a catalogue of books on investment which you can order from the site.

Moneyworld, which does not ask you to register, is best described as a magazine on the web with a strong statistical content. The site has its own search engine, PowerSearch, which allows you to search unit trusts, investment trusts, pensions, life funds and shares by past performance.

All share prices from the London market are updated every 20 minutes and all the statistical data on the site is downloadable to your own spreadsheets. In addition to London share prices, Moneyworld also quotes the prices of British shares on the New York markets while Wall Street trades.

It can be a useful way of getting advance notice of the likely price movements in London the following morning. The site also has a tax calculator, personal finance news and stock market reports updated every day.

As a magazine free to its readers, Moneyworld makes its living through advertising on the site which is hot-linked to the advertisers' own websites. The site is also pioneering the use of RealCall technology with advertisers.

This allows you to click on an advertisement, enter your phone number on screen and, within a minute, receive a call back from a real, live human being. This does not cost you anything. Among a number of firms making use of this new technology are Bradford & Bingley, Fleming Investment Trust Management, Legal & General and Royal & Sun Alliance.

Find: [www.find.co.uk](http://www.find.co.uk)  
Interactive Investor: [www.ii.co.uk](http://www.ii.co.uk)  
Moneyworld: [www.moneyworld.co.uk](http://www.moneyworld.co.uk)

## BARGAIN BASEMENT

### Solicitors slip up on advice

Putting your faith in solicitors could leave you out of pocket, according to a survey by consumer magazine *Which?*

Researchers working for the magazine took four separate problems to 79 different solicitors' firms across the UK.

They found that in one scenario concerning a double-glazing dispute, only one solicitor out of 21 was able to give correct advice. Three more gave advice that could have cost thousands of pounds in unwanted double glazing.

### A guide to getting your home ready for winter

Age Concern Insurance Services, part of the charity working for elderly people, is offering a free guide to protect your home and maintain it.

Its handy hints guide offers simple, practical advice on keeping your home secure, as well as detailing routine checks home-owners need to make to make sure that their property is ready for winter.

The guide includes sections on preparing for winter, going away from home, what to do if your home is damaged by a storm, and advice if a pipe freezes and bursts.

Age Concern's guide comes on the eve of the tenth anniversary of the October 1987 storms which caused more than £1.5bn of damage throughout the UK.

Although the ferocity of those storms was such that it would have been impossible to prevent large-scale disasters, the charity believes these tips could do much to prevent the more minor damage that occurs whenever bad weather strikes.

For further information or to receive the free guide, phone 0354 697 610.

## In brief

Pearl is offering customers insured through its Home Insurance Extra policy the chance to extend cover to protect their children's possessions while in student accommodation. The extra cover, for up to £2,000 of contents, costs £30 a year for students under 25 in full-time education. Call 0645 557788.

National Westminster Bank is launching money management seminars for students at 50 of its branches. Contact branches for details.

The Share Centre, a telephone stockbroker, is launching a daily market report on the Internet, which includes comments on prospects for the market and the centre's own buy/sell/hold recommendations. Call 0800 800008 for details or access the site on [www.share.co.uk](http://www.share.co.uk).

Legal & General is launching a Pro-PEP Bond for savers who want to use next year's PEP allowance now. The bond offers 8 per cent gross to savers between 31 October and 6 April 1998, when the money will be invested in L&G's three PEPs. Interest paid on the investment means £5,830 would give investors the full £6,000 maximum investment into the PEP next April.

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# 4/PERSONAL FINANCE

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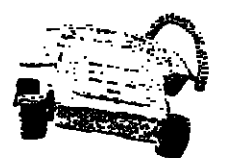
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£25,000 - £49,999	6.75%
£50,000 - £99,999	6.90%
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VARIABLE RATE	7.99%
APR	7.6%

All rates correct as at 4th September 1997.



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## Best borrowing rates

Telephone	% Rate and period	Max rate %	Fee	Incentive
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FIXED RATES				
Barclays Bank	0800 585 691	4.95 to 5.95	75	£250
First National	0800 000 000	4.25 to 5.25	75	£250
Halifax	01753 555555	4.75 to 5.75	75	£250

VARIABLE RATES				
Barclays Bank	0800 585 691	4.50 to 5.50	75	£250
First National	0800 000 000	3.95 to 4.95	75	£250
Halifax	01753 555555	4.25 to 5.25	75	£250

FIRST TIME BUYERS FIXED RATES				
Bank of Ireland	0179 551 4100	4.95 to 5.95	75	£250
First National	0800 000 000	4.25 to 5.25	75	£250
Halifax	01753 555555	4.75 to 5.75	75	£250

FIRST TIME BUYERS VARIABLE RATES				
Barclays Bank	0800 585 691	2.45 to 3.45	75	£250
First National	0800 000 000	1.95 to 2.95	75	£250
Halifax	01753 555555	2.25 to 3.25	75	£250

PERSONAL LOANS				
Telephone	APR %	Max LTV	Fixed monthly payments (£5,000 over 3 yrs)	
Barclays Bank	0800 585 691	12.0%	With insurance	£168.30
First National	0800 000 000	12.0%	With insurance	£168.30
Halifax	01753 555555	12.0%	With insurance	£168.30

SECURED (SECOND CHARGE)				
Telephone	APR %	Max LTV	Fixed monthly payments (£5,000 over 3 yrs)	
Barclays Bank	0800 585 691	8.0%	With insurance	£168.30
First National	0800 000 000	8.0%	With insurance	£168.30
Halifax	01753 555555	8.0%	With insurance	£168.30

STANDARD				
Telephone	Card Type	Max Rate	APR %	Annual fee
Barclays Bank	0800 585 691	£500	11.9	£2.50
First National	0800 000 000	£500	11.9	£2.50
Halifax	01753 555555	£500	11.9	£2.50

STORE CARDS				
Telephone	Card Type	Max Rate	APR %	Annual fee
Barclays Bank	0800 585 691	£500	11.9	£2.50
First National	0800 000 000	£500	11.9	£2.50
Halifax	01753 555555	£500	11.9	£2.50

GUARANTEED INCOME BONDS				
Telephone	Card Type	Max Rate	APR %	Annual fee
Barclays Bank	0800 585 691	£500	11.9	£2.50
First National	0800 000 000	£500	11.9	£2.50
Halifax	01753 555555	£500	11.9	£2.50

OFFSHORE ACCOUNTS				
Telephone	Card Type	Max Rate	APR %	Annual fee
Barclays Bank	0800 585 691	£500	11.9	£2.50
First National	0800 000 000	£500	11.9	£2.50
Halifax	01753 555555	£500	11.9	£2.50

NATIONAL SAVINGS ACCOUNTS				
Telephone	Card Type	Max Rate	APR %	Annual fee
Barclays Bank	0800 585 691	£500	11.9	£2.50
First National	0800 000 000	£500	11.9	£2.50
Halifax	01753 555555	£500	11.9	£2.50

GUARANTEED INCOME BONDS				
Telephone	Card Type	Max Rate	APR %	Annual fee
Barclays Bank	0800 585 691	£500	11.9	£2.50
First National	0800 000 000	£500	11.9	£2.50
Halifax	01753 555555	£500	11.9	£2.50

All rates subject to change without notice. Source: MONEYFACTS 01692 500677 2nd October 1997

## Best savings rates

Telephone	Account	Notice or term	Deposit	Rate %	Interest
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FIXED RATES					
Barclays Bank	0800 585 691	Instant	£100	4.50	£4.50
First National	0800 000 000	Instant	£100	4.50	£4.50
Halifax	01753 555555	Instant	£100	4.50	£4.50

VARIABLE RATES					
Barclays Bank	0800 585 691	Instant	£100	4.50	£4.50
First National	0800 000 000	Instant	£100	4.50	£4.50
Halifax	01753 555555	Instant	£100	4.50	£4.50

FIRST TIME BUYERS FIXED RATES					
Barclays Bank	0800 585 691	Instant	£100	4.50	£4.50
First National	0800 000 000	Instant	£100	4.50	£4.50
Halifax	01753 555555	Instant	£100	4.50	£4.50

FIRST TIME BUYERS VARIABLE RATES					
Barclays Bank	0800 585 691	Instant	£100	4.50	£4.50
First National	0800 000 000	Instant	£100	4.50	£4.50
Halifax	01753 555555	Instant	£100	4.50	£4.50

PERSONAL LOANS					
Telephone	Account	Notice or term	Deposit	Rate %	Interest
Barclays Bank	0800 585 691	Instant	£100	4.50	£4.50
First National	0800 000 000	Instant	£100	4.50	£4.50
Halifax	01753 555555	Instant	£100	4.50	£4.50

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First National	0800 000 000	Instant	£100	4.50	£4.50
Halifax	01753 555555	Instant	£100	4.50	£4.50

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Telephone	Account	Notice or term	Deposit	Rate %	Interest
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First National	0800 000 000	Instant	£100	4.50	£4.50
Halifax	01753 555555	Instant	£100	4.50	£4.50

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Telephone	Account	Notice or term	Deposit	Rate %	Interest
Barclays Bank	0800 585 691	Instant	£100	4.50	£4.50
First National	0800 000 000	Instant	£100	4.50	£4.50
Halifax	01753 555555	Instant	£100	4.50	£4.50

All rates subject to change without notice. Source: MONEYFACTS 01692 500677 2nd October 1997



BRIAN TORA

## Believe in bonds

Amid all the excitement that has surrounded soaring share prices and new highs on the FTSE index, a bull market has developed that seems to have been overlooked. Gilt-edged stocks have been moving ahead over recent weeks. Long gilt yields are down to 6.5 per cent and it is difficult to find a Government stock that you can buy under its redemption value. This is not as a result of the convergence story. It all hinges around one word - deflation.

Not everyone subscribes to the theory that deflation is likely to be with us sooner rather than later. But the world's greatest economy is growing steadily and has what amounts to zero unemployment, yet inflation is not a threat. The Fed decided against moving interest rates up this week. There was no need to.

Roger Bootle, chief economist at HSBC, the giant international bank, believes in the deflation theory. He was ahead of the game in his book, *The Death of Inflation*. His contention is that a rising cost of living is nothing like the problem it used to be. Part of the reason for the decline in the power of inflation could be the rapid technological advancements, being made. Each week seems to bring a story on a new, more powerful chip, exponential growth in the Internet or technology breaching another barrier.

The quiet revolution in matters such as tighter stock control, less waste, more efficient use of resources, better marketing techniques and so on owes everything to the growing sophistication of information technology. Quite a rosy picture, but what does it have to do with investment trends?

There are those who believe deflation should mean that bonds yield less than equities. I do not subscribe to this view, particularly as we seem to be in a position where economies can grow without severe inflationary pressures. However, with perceived wisdom at Government level now that borrowing is a bad thing, the supply of bonds could diminish, so further upward adjustment in the price of sovereign debt should not be ruled out.

Paul Thursby, manager of Barings Global Bond Trust, is of the opinion that fiscal austerity around the world will help bond markets almost everywhere. This is the first time in 20 years that governments have withdrawn from endeavouring to sustain GDP growth.

It is not just countries like Japan that have zero inflation, according to Paul. He rates bonds highly. I think he has a point. If you are as nervous of the stock market as Garmore is, there looks to be little lost in putting your faith in bonds. Warren Buffett is.

Brian Tora is chairman of Greig Middleton's investment strategy committee and can be contacted on 0171 655 4000. His next column will appear on Saturday 18 October.

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هَذَا مِنْ أَلَدَل

THE  
JONATHAN DAVIS  
COLUMN

## Samuelson's argument still holds true

Time passes and the caravan of luminaries in the world of finance and economics moves on with it. How widely, I wonder, does the name of Paul Samuelson still resonate among those under the age of 35? This wise and feisty man, once described with feeling by a contemporary as "a human mainframe", has good claim, along with his great rival, Milton Friedman, to have been the most influential economist of the post-war period.

In a career that has left virtually no corner of economics untouched, he was the man who first took the philosophies of Keynes and propagated them far and wide across the world. He was the first American economist to win the Nobel Prize for economics and wrote what proved to be the standard textbook on economics for a whole generation of students.

Samuelson's work has covered so many different subjects - his collected works run to six volumes and more than 400 academic papers - that it is easy to overlook his contribution in specific fields.

As it happens, one of the areas where he has had the greatest influence is in investment. As an admirer of Keynes, who was a noted speculator as well as a professional economist, he was one of the first economists to try and understand why markets should behave in the way that they do. A paper he wrote in the 1960s, dryly entitled "Proof That Properly Anticipated Prices Fluctuate Randomly", was the basis of what has since come to be known as the concept of efficient markets.

This is the notion that competition is such in large and well capitalised stock markets that it is difficult for anyone, even professional investors, to make consistent excess returns from them, excess returns in this context meaning higher returns than the market averages, after allowing for the different degrees of risk adopted. He later summed up his philosophy as "no easy pickings, no sure thing gains".

When Samuelson first propounded this potentially radical idea, it was greeted with astonishment, bordering on outrage, on Wall Street, which was hardly a surprise when you begin to think through the implications. Never one to want to avoid making waves if the opportunity arose, Samuelson



Paul Samuelson: propagated Keynes' philosophies across the world

himself concluded in a 1974 article that the best thing most professional fund managers could do was to pack their bags and go home. But, as a pragmatist, who like Keynes has always liked to dabble in the markets himself, he also had some serious advice for ordinary investors.

This was that the best thing they could do, once they had decided to invest in equities in the first place, was to put the bulk of their money into a low-cost index-tracking fund. He has long been a fan of the Vanguard Group, a fund management company which sells exactly such index-tracking funds to millions of American investors and has compiled a consistent above-average performance.

The line of reasoning, as those who have read this column will know, is an

argument which I believe holds as broadly true today in general as it did when Samuelson first propounded it. It does not mean, as Jason Hathorn, a director of the specialist fund management group Buchanan Partners has kindly pointed out to me, that there are a number of ways in which investors cannot still hope to add value by adding a slice of active management on top of their basic indexed portfolio.

One of the arguments for investing in a professionally managed European or emerging markets fund, for example, is that there are good grounds for believing that other markets are not yet as efficient as the UK and United States and therefore that it will still be possible to find profitable pricing anomalies there.

Like Barclays Global Investors,

whom I wrote about recently, Buchanan Partners believes that it is possible to use quantitative stock selection methods to exploit specific areas of inefficiency in the UK market. Their track record to date suggests that they may well be right, although how long these particular anomalies will persist is something which is by definition unknowable.

Samuelson would not disagree. In two recent articles for the *Journal of Portfolio Management*, he looked back on the 30 or so years of research that has been carried out since he first started developing the efficient markets hypothesis. His conclusion is that, while many individual anomalies have been shown to exist, the "jury of history" has failed to find "systematic inefficiency that exercises of judgement could use to achieve excess risk-adjusted returns". In other words, nobody has yet succeeded in disproving the basic thrust of the efficient markets concept.

Note that Samuelson's argument now, as before, is not that it is impossible for some professional fund managers to achieve excess returns. He explicitly allows the possibility that a handful of exceptionally talented individuals, such as Warren Buffett, can outperform the market on a consistent basis, though most will not, partly because they tend to trade too much and fritter away some of their gains in high dealing costs.

His case has always been that such exceptional investing talents will normally use their talent to make money for themselves, rather than rent themselves out to others; and that it is difficult and/or expensive for ordinary investors to take advantage of such talents even if they are able to identify them.

One thing that tends to happen, for example, is that most of the excess returns that the good managers achieve are simply absorbed by the higher fees that the managers with the best records are able to charge. This is one reason why the unit trusts with the best performance records tend also to be the ones with the highest initial charges as well. As an ordinary investor, you pay for what you get, but what you get, quite often, once you tot up the costs, is not worth paying for, compared with what you get from indexing.

## THE STOCK MARKET

## Soap operas can't match it for drama

"He follows the stock market." Had the comment been "He reads books on brain surgery as a hobby," the intonation of surprise in the voice could not have been greater.

To many people, anything to do with shares is not only considered a mystery but is also regarded as deadly dull. Of course many subjects are also considered uninteresting until we find out more about them.

Many people switch off when financial matters are discussed because they think the subject is beyond their comprehension.

Here is a different view of the stock market: "It is like a real-life soap opera with a cast of thousands. It has star players, the occasional unknowns achieving overnight fame, births, marriages, intrigue, success stories, feuds, dominant personalities, weak individuals and power struggles."

Around 3,000 shares are quoted in London. In this ongoing real-life drama there may be good news, a little intrigue

or a report of a boardroom power struggle.

Falling demand for a company's goods or services, or a worsening economy may cast a shadow.

Just as with a soap opera, it takes time to become conversant with the market's vagaries. It is possible to do so without spending any money. Indeed, it is advisable to buy only when you feel comfortable and confident.

Create an imaginary portfolio of shares in the companies which appeal to you. They could include the brewery which owns your local pub, the supermarket chain which you favour or the manufacturer of your favourite toothpaste. Provided they are quoted on the London Stock Exchange, the choice is yours.

Follow their fate by looking at their share price each day and reading reports about them in *The Independent's* business pages. A company's annual report not only contains financial information, it will also tell you

a great deal about its activities. Companies will always send a copy to anyone upon request.

Do not restrict your researches to the financial press. Follow the general news and look at what is happening.

If a company has developed a new product, is refurbishing its chain of shops or is generally improving its image, you may consider that its profitability will increase. Add companies which attract your attention to the list.

It is by following the coverage of company news that you become familiar with the stock market.

"Where to get Share Information" is *ProShare Investor Update No 5*. It is available by sending an A4 stamped addressed envelope to: *ProShare, 13-14 Basinghall Street, London, EC2V 5BQ*.

John Andrew is the author of "How to Understand the Financial Press". His book is published by Kogan Page at £9.99 and is available in bookshops.

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## Burghers hold back the wave of technology

Spare a thought for the brave burghers of Llanwrtyd Wells, in mid Wales, whose ferocious determination to prevent the closure of their local branch of Barclays Bank led to a minor victory this week.

The town, with a population of just 700, is the smallest in Britain and the bank was intent on saving costs by closing its branch there. But protests by 30 inhabitants have succeeded in ensuring that Barclays will continue to devote two part-time staff to servicing the branch three days a week. One small victory, perhaps. But it takes place

against a context of massive rationalisation within the retail banking sector. Thousands of bank and building society branches and tens of thousands of jobs have been axed.

Of course, this is in part caused by the big banks' and societies' drive to boost profits. Yet it is also based on a growing wish among bank customers for different types of service that more closely represent their needs.

First Direct, the telephone bank owned by Midland, is part of this trend. Since its inception in the late 1980s, First Direct has built up a base of al-

most 750,000 customers who are more than happy - indeed, they demand - to do business over the phone.

This has come in tandem with a move by most banks to remove most of their back-office functions from the branches to remote service centres.

The move to branchless banking has spread. Lloyds Bank and Citibank use Pison organisers, which can be connected to the phone to download financial information.

Nationwide is using the Internet, a move followed by many other organisations.

Co-operative Bank has led the way in staffless branches, through which it is possible to carry out most major transactions via machines in the wall and video cameras.

Barclays offers a mobile phone alternative, in which prospective customers can access details of their account while on the move.

The Co-op this week offered the same mobile link, but also gave users a choice of phones. With the Co-op, you get a free phone for which you pay £23.50 a month in line rental and a £35 connection fee. This gives 20

minutes of free airtime, with peak rate calls costing 40p and peak rate local calls costing 12p.

Co-operative Bank claims that first-year fixed costs would be about £332, on which you must add the price of calls you make. The bank admits that only a few thousand people are likely to take advantage of such an offer in the coming year.

But it insists the future of modern banking lies in the diversity of means of access of financial services to customers, of which mobile phones are just one option.

- Nic Clark

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# 6/PERSONAL FINANCE

The real world can be an expensive place to live

Wealth warnings: Today's up-and-coming young professionals are finding their student debts cause more headaches than their social outings



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'This Life', it is not. By comparison with the cult TV series' graphic portrayal of serial sex, drink-and-drugs binges and, maybe, a little work, real life for Britain's recent crop of graduates can seem much tamer. What they have in common, however, is debt, a hangover from their student days. Samantha Downes asks whether banks really care.

The move from student life to one of work can mean one giant-sized hangover for each summer's new crop of college graduates. Paying back huge overdrafts incurred as a student can mean that the first few years' adjustment to a life of work is not always the exciting experience it ought to be.

The introduction of student loans in 1990 placed a whole generation of students into further debt. Seven years later the average graduate leaves university owing around £4,000. From 1998, the mountain of debt looks set to increase, following the abolition of the student grant and the Government's decision to charge all but the poorest students a £1,000 teaching fee, repayable after graduation.

Moreover, the 300,000-plus students who graduated this year can hardly expect to start on mega-bucks. A Barclays survey in March showed the average starting salary to be £11,749 for female graduates and £13,660 for males.

The expenses associated with starting a new job can put a graduate in even more debt.

'Graduates are tempted by what seems like a good offer, and will use the money to buy extras like a stereo'

A National Westminster Bank spokesman says "destudentisation" can place many graduates in financial shock. "Having to buy a new suit, and having to suddenly pay more for things, even going out, all add up to additional expenses," he says. Although they admit to a penchant for the odd bottle of wine or three, these up-and-coming young professionals from south London admit it is their debts which are giving them the worst post-graduate hangover. Key to achieving a good relationship with their bank managers is a willingness to discuss every financial move

charges by letting his bank know when he was in financial difficulty. "I have had an account with the Royal Bank of Scotland since I was 15," he says. "I made sure I kept them informed of my financial situation and [they] would increase my overdraft as necessary." Caroline Soames, 24, rethought her choice of course when she was unable to get funding for a social science degree. Last year she finished a two-year HND course in television operations in Newcastle and now works as a technical operator with a satellite TV channel. Like Mark, Caroline, who

£800 interest-free overdraft, but is not too concerned at her ability to pay it off. "Generally I did not really live beyond my means," she says. Working in the summer holidays or studying for a degree which offers one-year work experience as part of the course helps. Simon Salwan, 24, is a trainee trader in the City of London. He finished his first degree, a BSc in Computer Studies, debt free. He admits he is lucky to have started his new job with a debt of just £900. "I did an internship with IBM and I saved some money from that. All I have now

Stuart Davidson, from the Nacab money advice support unit, says: "They should sit down and make a budget. Graduates are often tempted by what seems like a good offer, and will use the money to buy extras like a stereo."

Nacab recommends that graduates consolidate their debts. "Running a loan and an overdraft is the slippery slope into more debt. Taking out a loan to absorb the overdraft should be considered."

One by-product of increasing competition for graduate customers, considered by banks to be potential high-flyers, is their willingness to offer packages that aim to get students over the first few years of post-graduation hardship. All the traditional high street banks offer cheap graduate loan facilities.

Barclays and Lloyds offer graduates a maximum loan of £5,000, but be prepared to pay more interest if you want longer to pay the amount back. The Barclays loan is fixed at 9.9 per cent APR per annum and must be paid back over two years. Lloyds offers graduates five years but the interest is higher at 10.5 per cent APR per year.

Nat West offers a maximum loan of £10,000, repayable at 8 per cent APR per year over seven years. Midland also offers a £10,000 maximum loan, repayable over five years at 9.9 per cent APR.

If loans sound like too much of a commitment, another option is an interest-free overdraft. Lloyds allows up to £750 for a year after graduation, while Barclays offers a £1,500 facility. Midland offers a three-year £3,000 interest-free overdraft.

Abbey National and Halifax say they are looking at the graduate market, but have no immediate plans to offer special loans or overdraft facilities.



A new beginning: After college life finishes, many graduates will face a hard financial slog

with their branch, both as students and afterwards.

Mark James, a trainee solicitor in London's West End, owes around £4,500, a combination of a student loan, overdraft and credit card bills.

However, the 25-year-old, who graduated in French and law from Cardiff University in 1994, avoided excessive bank

only received a grant during the second year of her course, kept her bank notified of potential problems. But although she has paid off her overdraft, Caroline still has an outstanding £1,000 student loan.

Sue Privett, 22, took the same course. Her fees and living expenses were paid for by her parents. She now has an

is an overdraft," he says. "I had some savings which enabled me to pay for expenses like a deposit on a house and new suits. I was quite careful when I was a student. I could have got into a lot more debt than I have."

The National Association of Citizens' Advice Bureaux (Nacab) warns graduates to borrow only what they need.

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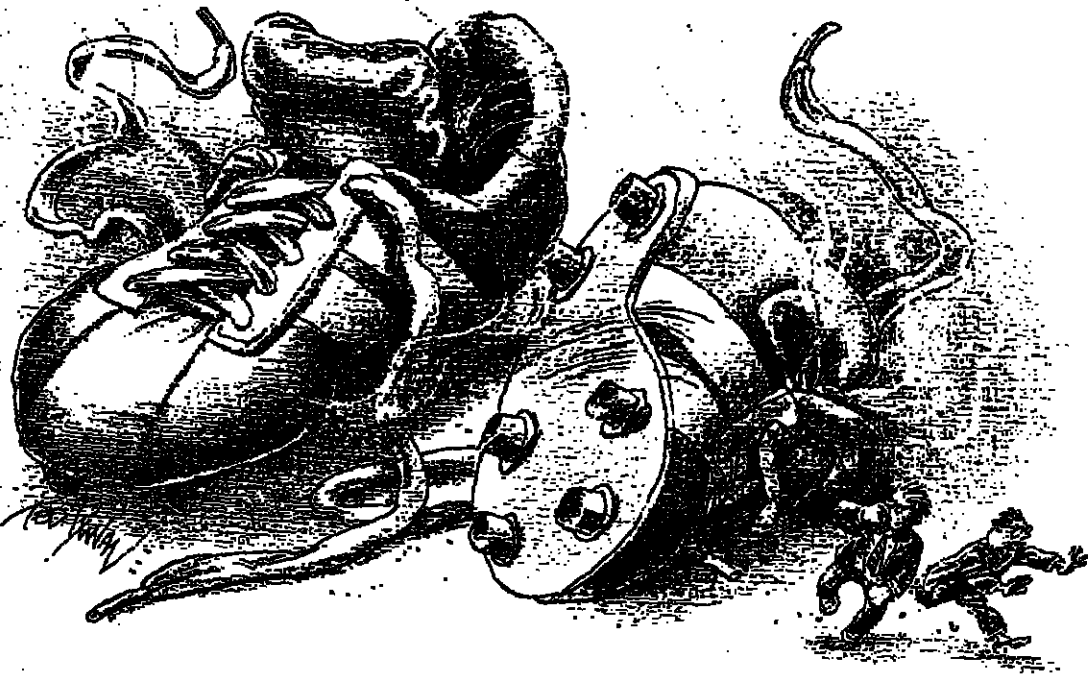
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## Dangerous sports can put your insurance at risk



You'd think insurers would want their clients to keep as fit as possible. But, as Paul Slade discovers, many sports can leave your premiums and cover looking less than healthy.

Hang-gliders, potholers, mountaineers and polo players are just a few of the people who may find their weekend sport creates problems with their life and health insurance.

One area likely to be hit is PHI, or permanent health insurance, which provides policyholders with an income when unable to work through illness or accident. Some insurers, such as Abbey Life and Eagle Star, will refuse to pay out if the injury arose through any activity on their list of dangerous sports. Others will accept the risk, but charge

a higher premium. A few will look in detail at the circumstances involved and may make no extra charge.

Colin Young of Unum, a specialist health insurer, says: "What we're looking for is people who are pursuing these sports in a regulated environment and following safety procedures. If it's motorised hang-gliding, we'd want to know they've got a private pilot's licence. If it's parachuting, we'd want to see they're doing it as part of a club."

The individual's level of experience also counts for a lot. In cases like this, Mr Young says, no extra loading may be needed. Where loadings are deemed necessary, they could add anything from 25 per cent to 100 per cent to the size of the premiums. The same principle applies to life insurance and private medical cover although, in the case of life insurance, you are less likely to face exclusions than a simple hike in premiums.

Less hazardous sports, such as rugby or football, seldom trouble underwriters. You may find, however, that health insurance underwriters are tougher on sports such as rugby than their life insurance counterparts. This is because you have a higher chance of being injured on the rugby field than of dying there.

Application forms will ask you to specify any dangerous sports you may be involved in. Those admitting to daredevil hobbies get a second questionnaire asking for more details.

These forms are designed to flag up not only risky sports, but also any hazards involved in your work. Friends' Provident, for example, has one question on its form designed to uncover any applicants who may have forgotten to mention their work in bomb disposal.

It is important to complete them honestly. Admitting only to a little light golf when you spend every spare minute hot air ballooning could invalidate any claim you may

later need to make. Independent financial adviser Amanda Davidson says: "I'm a great believer in putting everything down on the form. If you had your tonsils out at the age of two, put it down."

Ms Davidson's own passion is for scuba diving. But because she sticks to safe areas and relatively shallow dives, she has found no need to pay extra for her own insurance.

Mr Young recommends going back to your insurer or adviser to see if the experience you have gained in your chosen sport may qualify you for lower premiums. "We will reassess the case," he says.

Ms Davidson adds: "If I get a situation with a client where the insurer says they don't like a certain sport or they want to put an extra on the premium, I tend to argue the toss with the underwriters and negotiate. They will reduce loadings or take them off. So don't accept the first loading they come up with, or the first exclusion."

## Cover can help soften the blow if you're injured

Every year, 19 million sports injuries are reported to GPs or hospital emergency departments - a quarter of them caused by football. For most people, the only way to soften the blow is to have some form of insurance cover.

The first step is to check whether you are covered by a work scheme. Many employers do have group medical insurance schemes for their staff. You can then receive non-NHS treatment if necessary.

The problem comes where employers' policies have a clause excluding certain sports, or even sports deemed to be dangerous. In this case, private cover is needed.

Bupa does not have a specific sports injury policy. But its BupaCare scheme, typically costing £41.61 a month for a single person aged 30, gives cover for any in-patient hospital treatment. This includes X-rays, surgery and hospital stays. BupaCare policies also provide out-patient treatment, such as physiotherapy, costing up to £500 a year. Sports clubs can obtain cover for individual members at a 15 per cent discount.

Another route is to insure the entire team rather than the individual. IGI Insurance, based in Nottingham, provides this service for most team sports. Its most popular cover is for football clubs.

Mark Searcy, business manager at IGI Insurance, said: "We price the cover for a club in units of £100, which means they can choose exactly how much they spend. The cover is

for an amateur team of up to 20 players. Each £100 will buy £1,000 compensation for death, loss of eye or limb, or total disablement. Benefit of up to £10 per unit per week for a total of 104 weeks is also paid to those in gainful employment, subject to a seven-day deferment." There is also £500,000 public liability cover.

Although the amount paid is not generous, in soccer there are roughly three individual claims per season for every four policies. Rugby, which is three times as risky, costs £200 per unit of cover. Hockey comes in at about £30, with cricket costing £30 and volleyball and netball £25.

Another company, Am-sport, offers the Gameplan policy against sporting injury. It covers 101 different sports, including aerobics, tennis, golf, squash, ice hockey and martial arts. Cover starts from £3.55 a month for low-risk sports, up to £10.55 a month for high-risk activities such as American football.

It includes benefits of up to £100 a week, plus hospital benefits of up to £30 a day, dental fees of up to £275, plus physiotherapy costing up to £300.

Those permanently disabled receive up to £75,000 and £37,500 is paid on accidental death. Liability insurance of up to £1m is included.

- Nic Giatti

Sports insurers: IGI Insurance phone 0115 9411022; Am-sport phone 0171 7218656; Bupa phone 0800 600500.

## Pros have other rules

Professional footballers and other full-time sports people face a different range of problems in arranging their own finances.

We tend to think of famous faces such as Ryan Giggs or Ian Wright, whose income now should be sufficient to set them up for life. But only about 800 of the UK's 2,600 professional footballers, for instance, enjoy the enhanced earning power of playing in the Premiership. In the lower divisions, many players will be earning little more than the fans.

One thing the Premiership players have in common with their more lowly brethren is that both groups must pack a whole career into a few years.

Mick McGuire, assistant chief executive of the Professional Footballers' Association, says: "The average career expectancy as a professional is eight years, and 50 per cent of those who sign professional contracts are no longer professional in two



Ryan Giggs: Early annuity

years' time. Players may be retiring from football at any age from 19 to 40, but the majority are finished at 32 or 33."

This early retirement age means the taxman's usual annuity rules are waived for professional sportsmen. The rest of us may have to wait till 50 or later, but professional footballers can take a retirement annuity at any age from 35 onwards, which will continue to pay them an income until death.

As far as tax relief is concerned, professional sportsmen are subject to the same contribution limits and earnings cap as the rest of us.

- Paul Slade

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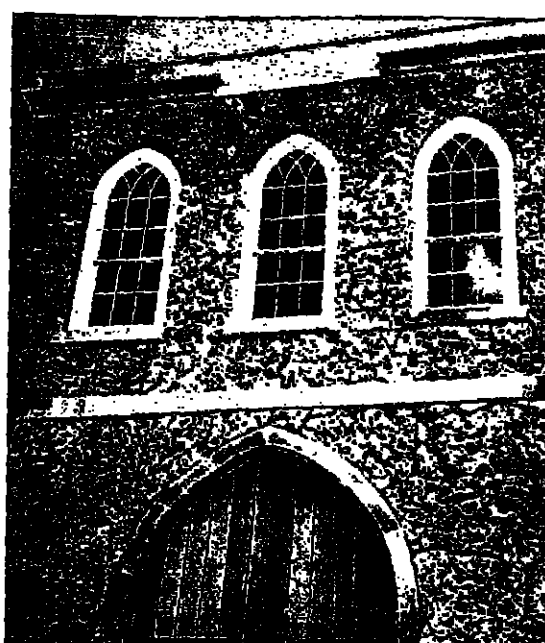
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## THREE TO VIEW: WITH ONE BEDROOM



Tomasz Starzewski, frock designer to the famous, is selling his very large one-bedroom flat in Queensgate, London SW7. The lower ground-floor apartment, with 37ft drawing room, has been designed for entertaining rather than overnight guests, but there is a study-cum-dressing room adjoining the 17ft bedroom. For sale at £295,000 through Chesterfield (0171 581 5234).



The Summer House at Alderley in Gloucestershire, 18 miles from Bath, is a one-bedroom castellated folly built on a hill with views to the Severn estuary. Reached via a track through the woods, the only sound to be heard is bird song. With Gothic windows and doors and a part circular kitchen, it is furnished and ready for rental at £1,250 a month. Through Knight Frank (01285 658656).



A sofa bed would be a happy addition to The Legacy, a late-Victorian house with one bedroom, overlooking the River Rother channel at Rye in Sussex. Guests staying in the 24ft attic room would have a distant view of the sea. The rest of the house includes a living room with wood-burning stove and a bedroom with open fireplace and French doors to the balcony. £85,000 through Phillips & Stubbs (01797 227338).

## Forget the price escalator. Find a place that rockets

There is nothing like spotting an up-and-coming area before it arrives. Early defensiveness turns to quiet triumphalism as rising prices prove your point. In London, a few areas have seen particularly startling increases. Penny Jackson reports on areas that are now in the Premier League

Leading the field of the newly-fashionable is Notting Hill, in west London, which according to a review by Savills Research, has increased in popularity by 50 per cent within 10 years.

Startlingly, Wandsworth, in south-west London, is now regarded as prime, while among the new residential areas close to the City, Clerkenwell epitomises the successful trend for turning old industrial buildings into New York style lofts.

So why do so many more people now want to move to these parts of London? We spoke to three recent buyers about their choice. Margot Steinberg, a Canadian actress and theatre producer, bought her flat in Ladbroke Grove, Notting Hill in the spring.

She had tired of the transient feel of Kensington as much as being priced out of the area: "I was a little nervous of moving here. It seemed exciting, even a little bit dangerous, although unlike New York I never feel in any personal danger."

"I already knew it because a lot of my favourite restaurants and cafes were in Notting Hill. I love it here. There is a wonderful mix of people and there is real buzz during the daytime because there are so many actors and artists around. It doesn't die during office hours."

"I fell in love with my flat as soon as I



In love, with Notting Hill: Margot Steinberg in her new flat

Photograph: Nicola Kurtz

walked through the door although it took me a good six months to find it. It has really big rooms, with lovely proportions. I could have sold it the day after I bought it for 10 per cent more."

She likes the fact also that it is not entirely gentrified and that it is clearly popular with families. "Just before I moved in there was a big party in the communal gardens. You really feel you belong somewhere and for someone like me who has no family in the country that is really important. I hope it doesn't become too fashionable

and designer."

A similar flat closer to Ladbroke Grove tube station would cost in the region of £200,000 according to Winkworth, the estate agents. They are selling a two bedroom, two bathroom maisonette near the crest of the hill, with the use of communal gardens, for £327,500.

Properties in the area have risen 20 per cent in the last year. An unmodernised four-bedroom house near the tube sells for £340,000 while a larger house on the communal gardens can be worth at least £2.5m.

In its research, Savills found that green spaces and large period family houses were among the biggest incentives for people to move out of central London. Working couples with children are less prepared to commute from afar than they were.

A few years ago, Matthew Kaye, a partner in Chesterfield, the estate agents, might have considered moving out to the country now that his wife is expecting their second child. Instead they have moved to a large house in a quiet Wandsworth street with a good garden.

### THAT WAS THEN. THIS IS NOW

How prices have risen	1992	1997
Notting Hill W2: 4-bed house, Northumberland Avenue	£350,000	£700,000
Wandsworth SW18 6-bed house, Baskerville Road	£450,000	£800,000
Clerkenwell WC1 1,000 sq ft of loft space	£100,000	£250,000

A staging post to the country, perhaps, but one where families tend to linger. "I often have to work in the evenings and it would be impossible if I lived a long way. I like to be able to drive to work in 15 minutes," he says. "Although prices have shot up, in effect after work done to the house we paid no more than the £360,000 we got for our two-bedroom, two-bathroom Knightsbridge flat."

The village feel of the common has a particular appeal. Volvos and labradors are as much in evidence as in Sussex.

"Most of our neighbours are young, married with children. We all go to the same playgrounds, nurseries or schools. In fact the schools are good and are enormous draw."

A lot of Wandsworth's buyers are exiles from Chelsea and still regard Peter Jones as their local shop. "This is a good move for the archetypal Sloane Ranger", adds Mr Kaye.

The leafy outlier was just what Lindsay Etchells, a solicitor, and her partner wanted to escape. They left Balham, south London, for an old print works in Clerkenwell

when the market was its most depressed during the early '90s and there was only a scattering of redevelopment.

"The building was derelict and gave us a huge amount of space," she says. "We have created our own house within walking distance of the City, Covent Garden, Islington, the South Bank, you name it. It has a strong Italian community - a festival every summer, and wonderful delis all within a stone's throw. It is a lovely mixed area of people and architecture."

Along with its new chic image that rivals the most improved areas of Docklands, has come an explosion of restaurants. "We can walk home from work, find the fridge empty, and pop out to some of the best eateries in town," says Lindsay Etchells.

According to Lee Clements of agents Jarvis Keller, it would be almost impossible today to find the kind of undeveloped space Lindsay Etchells bought. About 1,000 sq feet would have cost less than £150,000 in '92, whereas today it would be £250,000 plus.

## The armchair revolution sweeping over estate agents

Estate agents face a continuing lack of consumer confidence and a rise of alternative sales methods. Some are slowly emerging from the Dark Ages and claim house-hunting on the Internet offers salvation. Felicity Connell investigates if this is really the case.

Estate agents have been notoriously slow to incorporate the latest in new technology, primarily in order to keep costs down. But whereas, once upon a time, reams of badly photocopied details proved adequate, those who want to sell their home and persuade us to buy another are now having to work harder to improve their service.

Some have alighted on the World Wide Web as the way forward. Marcus Balderston, from the Internet working party set up by the National Association of Estate Agents (NAEA), says: "The Internet is set to influence the commercial world with the same impact as electricity, the telephone and television."

"The pace of change in information technology is such that estate agents could be left behind in business terms if they do not get to grips with the Internet now."

According to statistics, one in 10 households can already access the Internet and the number is growing.

A search of the Net for properties to buy initially looks promising, but up to now there is little national coverage, with many sites devoid of instructions on how to use them. More can presently be gained from

national or local press or even through the phone book.

In the United States, by contrast, 70 per cent of residential homes are advertised on the Internet. While UK estate agents have so far been reluctant to invest in a system which is still in its infancy, and to which the majority of potential customers do not have access, huge investment is being made by the computer and television industries to bring the Internet out of the study and into the living room.

Stephen Forshaw, of Imaginative Tech-

With an up-to-the-minute computerised system, properties can be wiped off, or temporarily blocked, in a matter of seconds once an offer has been accepted

nology - one such company - says: "Most people won't be interested until they can access the Internet via the TV remote control." By Christmas this will be possible.

A box to connect televisions to the Internet is already available at around £300, but will soon be marketed like a mobile phone, at a fraction of its cost with the profits coming from usage. When this system becomes integral with television, Mr Forshaw predicts that Internet use will explode.

The NAEA has recently set up an In-

ternet service, PropertyLive. Although not the first of its kind, its ultimate goal is to reduce the house-buying process from several weeks to a matter of hours.

PropertyLive is based on the NAEA's existing HomeLink service, designed to help people move from one area of the country to another. It provides access to properties offered for sale through 850 independent estate agents nationwide, via a visit to a local participating estate agent. Now, this information will be available from the home, via the Internet.

In addition, through integration with government databases, customers will soon be able to find out essential property-related information - local schools, hospitals and leisure and transport facilities. New access to information will allow estate agents to speed up the sales process - to check title, carry out local searches and deal with land registry. As the service develops, online mortgages, conveyancing, insurance and other services may be made available, as the NAEA tries to turn the estate agent into a one-stop property shop.

The speed at which homes are presently selling means property details mailed to customers may be out of date even before the package reaches the postbox. With an up-to-the-minute computerised system, properties can be wiped off, or temporarily blocked, in a matter of seconds once an offer has been accepted.

On the Internet, one of the largest residential property sites is IFL Home Search. IFL charges estate agents £100 per month to advertise all their properties, with colour pictures of exteriors and interiors.



Broadcast views: by Christmas it will be possible to switch from soaps to semis

Photograph: Hulton Getty

Consumers can access IFL's Homelocator service. A customer taps in his demands, for a three-bedroom detached period house with garage on the outskirts of Cambridge, priced under £180,000. Every day the company will e-mail details of any new property meeting those criteria.

PropertyLive's charges to its estate agents are similar. "My personal view is that within the next five years estate agency will change almost beyond recognition," Marcus Balderston says.

Ultimately, the truth of such a claim depends on how clients take to the system.

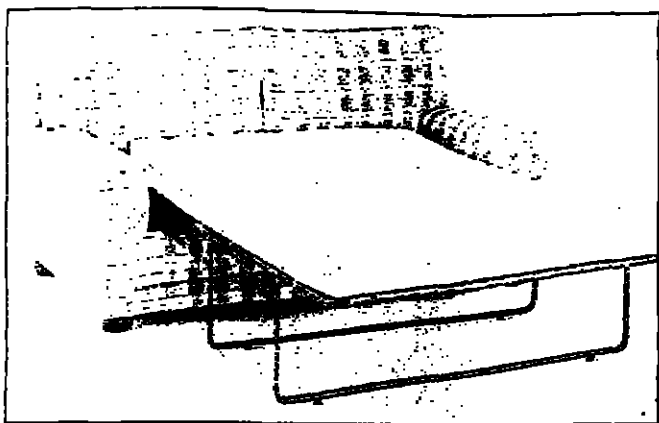
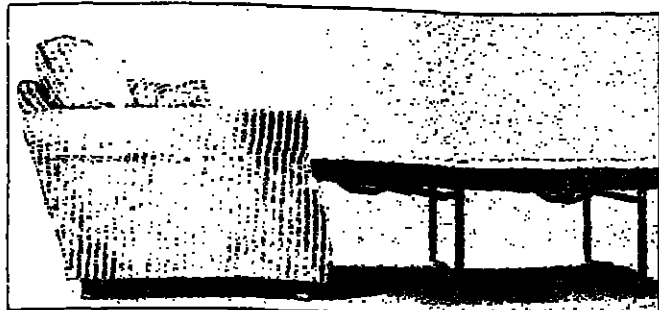
So far, sales success has been mixed. In one recent case, a vendor who advertised his property on the Internet soon found a buyer - living just round the corner.

Property Live: [www.propertylive.co.uk](http://www.propertylive.co.uk); IFL Home Search: [www.iflhomesearch.com](http://www.iflhomesearch.com)

# 10/PROPERTY

## FURNISHINGS

### Do a long stretch on a sofa bed



When sofa beds were bed settees they were as sexy as an anorak and as vicious as a deck chair. Pressure on living space, however, has led to big improvements in comfort and style. Rosalind Russell examines some of the best – without losing her fingers.

On average, people buy a sofa every five to seven years and spend about three months making the decision. They usually visit up to five shops.

On top of that, the Sofa Workshop company says, they will make at least three visits to the store they eventually buy from. Not an impulse buy, then

– people generally take longer making up their minds about the sofa than buying the house it goes in.

"It's a major purchase," says Ashley Grant of the Sofa Workshop, which has 32 stores in the United Kingdom and a mail-order service. For those intending to buy a sofa bed, he advises asking salesmen direct questions about how often it can really be used as a bed, especially if it is intended for a studio flat.

"A lot of them should be used as a bed on only one or two nights a week at best," he cautions. "We sell only one that can't be used every day. The rest have an interior sprung mattress. They can be standard double bed size, 6ft long, or we can custom-build one any size you want."

While most sofa beds are es-

entially sofas that you can sleep on, the Sorrento, which is made by KA International, based in London, is a bed that can be made into a sofa. It has a full sprung mattress and is the size of a single bed. It is sold with or without back cushions.

It can also be sold with a second bed contained in the drawer underneath, making either a full-size double bed, or two singles. Depending on the fabric, the single costs around £843, the double £861.

Until recently sofa beds were bought for necessity and were notably short on glamour. But

their image has been upgraded, and the mechanism for hauling out the base has improved. At least now you've a fair chance of retaining all your fingers.

Sales of sofa beds account for 28 per cent of Sofa Workshop's turnover; around 800 shift a week. The ones sold via mail order come straight from the factory and are slightly cheaper.

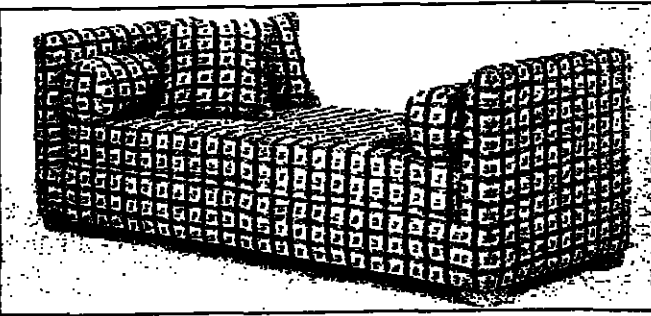
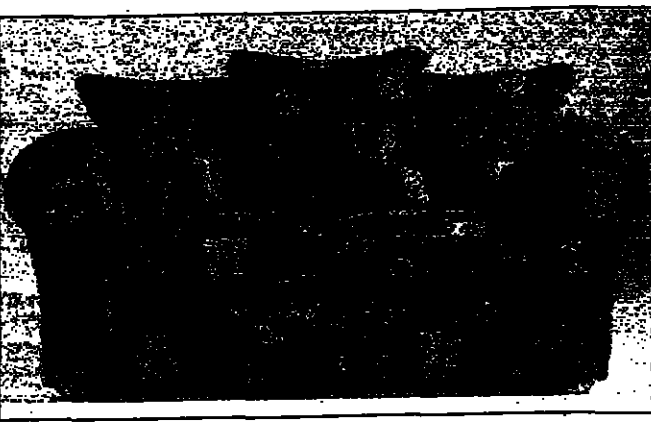
Their mail order customers are often first- or second-time home owners, but are well past the futon-in-a-bag stage. Sofa Workshop Direct promise that if you don't like the sofa when

it's delivered, or within 10 days of delivery, they'll take it away again without question. And if you're still trying to make up your mind what's going to match the carpet, they'll provide a courtesy sofa to sit on in the meantime, and take it away when the new one arrives.

Prices for the mail order range start at £399, but in stores where custom made sofa beds are ordered (often for taller buyers) they can rise to £2,000. The current best-seller is a trendy Chesterfield shape, but future trends point towards Big Furniture.

"The size of sofas is definitely increasing," says Grant. "Traditionally, sofa beds were compact because it was assumed that people needed the space. Now the demand is for bigger ones, to make best use of the rooms."

Big sofas needn't always mean grumpy delivery men getting stuck in the sitting-room door. Highly Sprung, which screws, glues and dowels in a factory in High Wycombe and has three stores in London, says its sofas can be made with bolt-on arms and split frames if delivery access is restricted. (They



also advise measuring the access before ordering.)

"Sofa beds have come a long way," says the firm's Neil Brown, a former advertising man who started selling Chesterfield sofas from his sitting room by way of a profitable extra-curricular activity.

"The mechanisms, which are made in Belgium, are lighter. Fabrics are so much more attractive that people now tend to buy the sofa bed first and then build the rest of the room around it. It is a big statement."

The company sells about 50 sofa beds a week (*Batman* and *Avengers* actress Uma Thurman, who is house-hunting in Notting Hill, was spotted browsing in one of the shops a few days ago). They've noticed a

shift in buyer trends, too. "Instead of moving house, people are redecorating, and have new covers made for their sofas."

Highly Sprung (01494 439596); Sofa Workshop Direct (01443 238699 – for stores 01798 343400); KA International, 60 Sloane Avenue, London SW3 (0171-584 7352).

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## A faster way to be rid of the burden

Everyone knows that taking out a mortgage may mean paying back many thousands of pounds more in interest than the capital they borrowed in the first place. Fewer people know that the amount of interest depends on how the capital repayments are calculated. Nic Cicuti explains the different methods.

Twenty years or so ago the choice of mortgage available to most borrowers was simple. To paraphrase Henry Ford, you could either have a repayment loan, or a repayment loan.

This is the kind of mortgage where each year into the loan you repay a mixture of interest and capital. Gradually, the capital repayments increase relative to interest until by the end, most of the monthly payments involve the loan itself.

In the 1980s everything changed. Lenders introduced the interest-only loan, backed by a separate investment - typically an endowment policy, but also PEPs and tax-free pension lump sums.

However, fears over whether endowments can pay off the entire loan in a low-inflation climate have led to the resurgence of direct repayment options. If nothing else, their supporters argue, repayments offer the certainty of meeting the full cost of the mortgage over the agreed period.

But the return in popularity of repayment options has also

led to a fierce debate over how each monthly payment should be calculated against the loan itself.

A survey by Harris Research for Yorkshire Bank earlier this year suggests that a third of people have no idea when their mortgages will be fully paid off, and more than 50 per cent have no idea what their exact repayments are or how they are calculated.

Typically, mortgage lenders will calculate the amount of capital to be repaid only at the end of a 12-month cycle, no matter how much has been repaid in the intervening period. This is known within the mortgage industry as the "annual rest" period.

In effect, it means that borrowers who repay their mortgages each month are themselves loaning money to their lenders throughout the year, until their repayments are credited against the amount still outstanding.

The alternative is to credit part of the amount paid against the capital owed, as soon as it comes in, either monthly ("monthly rest") or daily ("daily rest").

Research by Yorkshire Bank, which operates the daily rest system, shows what that means. The bank calculates that if borrowers' monthly repayments were immediately set against the capital owed, savings of thousands of pounds in interest could be achieved.

On a typical £50,000 loan, repaid monthly at today's rate of 8.45 per cent, monthly repayments of £373.74 would give total interest savings of £4,459 over 25 years. Or the repayment

period could be cut by 10 months.

Yorkshire Bank allows payments to be made fortnightly. With such a system, the interest saved compared to other lenders would be £5,600, topping 14 months off the repayment period. Weekly repayments would give savings of £6,312, or 15 months off the typical period.

Direct Line, the telephone insurer which now also offers mortgages and has a variable rate of 7.59 per cent, also operates daily rests. Over 25 years, its loans would give total interest savings of £7,533 compared to the rate that is charged by most lenders.

Lenders are increasingly sensitive to suggestions that

their charging system is unfair. Some, while still operating an annual rest system, argue that they are prepared to be flexible to help people pay off their loans early.

Andrew Stinson, from Barclays Mortgages information unit, says: "We are prepared to allow people to make lump sum reductions of £1,000 or more on standard variable mortgages, without penalty, and payments will be adjusted downwards the following month to take the lower capital owed into account."

"We are also ready to show flexibility with people who have fixed-rate mortgages, allowing them to pay up to twice their normal monthly payments, thus reducing the term of the mortgage."

Mr Stinson suggests that it may be possible both to make one-off capital repayments and to increase monthly payments in order to cut the loan period.

Ian Darby, marketing director at John Charcol, the mortgage brokers, argues that flexibility is key to the right mortgage.

"What people are really looking for is the chance to pay off their loan faster than the original limit. This may be for many reasons, including coming into lump sums, perhaps as a result of bonuses."

"We try to offer a range of mortgage that impose no redemption penalties for people who wish to make partial repayments, be they fixed-rate or

capped mortgages." John Charcol also offers new-style flexible mortgages which allow for payment holidays and swifter repayments at borrowers' own discretion.

Which? the consumer magazine, this month publishes a guide to checking your mortgage statement, which includes a list of lenders operating monthly or daily rests. Obtaining a copy could help you shave thousands off your loan.

Nic Cicuti, personal finance editor, has written a 27-page 'Guide to Mortgages', available free to readers of *The Independent*. The guide, sponsored by Barclays Mortgages, is available by calling 0800 585691. Or fill in the coupon on page 4.

## MORTGAGE BARGAIN BASEMENT

Skipton Building Society is offering a five-year fixed rate mortgage, with rates linked to size of the loan relative to a property's value (called the LTV). On an LTV of 75 per cent, the rate is 6.7 per cent, rising to 6.99 per cent on an LTV of 95 per cent. Free unemployment cover is provided.

Compulsory insurance and redemption penalties also apply. Call 0800 446776.

Alliance & Leicester has launched a three-year discounted mortgage with no repayment fee for those who want to make earlier repayments. The loan offers 1.25

per cent off the standard variable rate of 8.45 per cent on an LTV of up to 95 per cent. Call 0800 412214.

John Charcol is offering a mortgage that delivers a cash-back, of 0.75 per cent on the sum borrowed, a 1 per cent discount on the lender's variable

rate of 7.99 per cent until December 1 1999, plus a cap - to 7.99 per cent on future rate increases until August 2002. The loan is only available on LTVs of 70 per cent. Call 0800 718191.

Britannia Building Society has launched a 10-year fixed rate, pegged at 7.74 per cent for

loans of up to 95 per cent of the property's value. Free unemployment cover of 12 months is included. Redemption penalties and a £295 per cent arrangement fee apply. Contact local branches.

The Mortgage Operation, a home loan wholesaler, has ne-

gotiated a loan for high net-worth individuals which offers a 4 per cent cashback up to £25,000.

The loan, from Birmingham Midshires, is guaranteed to be lower than the top 10 lenders' average variable rates and now stands at 8.16 per cent. Call 0171 5712400.



## The pink pound is at home in the city

PENNY JACKSON

Home hunters in London have flocked to Elephant & Castle to buy an apartment in Metro Central, a revamped office block on New Kent Road.

Within two weeks of launching its final phase, Metro South, St George, the developer has sold 35 of the 100 studios and flats. Not surprisingly, its position close to Waterloo and the City and its competitive prices have all contributed to its success, but so has the pink pound.

Apparently, word of mouth among the gay community has boosted its popularity. "It has an American lifestyle flavour to it," says a man who lives in nearby Brixton. "They can see themselves as living in an episode of *Friends*. The gymnasium and swimming pool under one roof would be irresistible. Gay men like to colonise and have definitely taken up south of the river. It has all the space you get for the money. You have to have somewhere to put your rowing machine."

Lorna Vesty, a partner at Knight Frank, says the gay buyer is a major buying force in central urban developments. "They mirror the rising importance of empty-nesters in rural new developments," she says. "In the case of London, the usual rules apply - affordability and location are the two crucial issues for all buyers. Single people or those without children often like to be within easy reach of nightclubs and restaurants." Metro South prices start at £67,950 and go up to £218,950 for a three bedroom, three-bath duplex. Sales centre: 0171 967 0545.

There are people who have been waiting years for the perfect Hampshire house to come on to the market. So when the London-based Honey Pot Home children's charity started its search there, it is not surprising it was met by gloomy faces.

But the organisation's

relatively short house hunt has ended with that rare creature, a four-bedroom house in seven acres in the New Forest.

Compromise was the key. Four years of hard fund-raising to provide needy children with a break from home were a lesson on value for money. "The house is an unexciting Seventies building but it has a bungalow in the grounds, a flat above the garage, a swimming pool and a lake," the charity's founder, Lisa Nelson, says. "We paid £430,000, £20,000 under the asking price and the district council were brilliant about granting change of use. All we need now are a lot of fairy godmothers to help us kit it out."

Most people's dream home is a Georgian rectory, and a dream it usually remains, says Kevin Allen of John D Wood's Lymington office. "A period house in a decent garden is as rare as hens' teeth. Anyone after that kind of house in the New Forest has to compromise. Prices here are still largely fuelled by the shortage of good houses for sale." An Edwardian-built neo-Georgian house, minus nooks and crannies, with a cottage, would be around £750,000.

Sunflowers have been doing good business this summer in west London. Rolfe East, the estate agency and lettings group, abandoned the traditional agency's board for one in the shape of a sunflower. This unusual marketing campaign has met with approval, as well it might given the ugliness of a cluster of run-of-the-mill boards. The agents are almost as keen to promote the real thing and have been running a competition for the largest sunflower grown on their patch.

It finished this week as sunflowers begin to droop. So far a seven footer from Ealing is leading the field. A £200 prize will go to a school of the winner's choosing.

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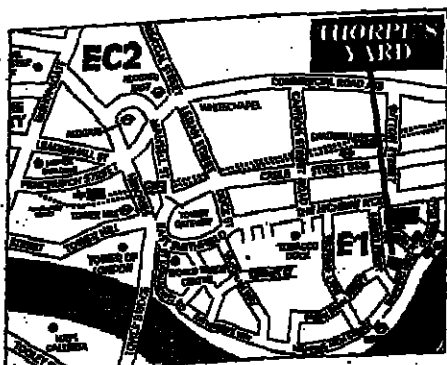
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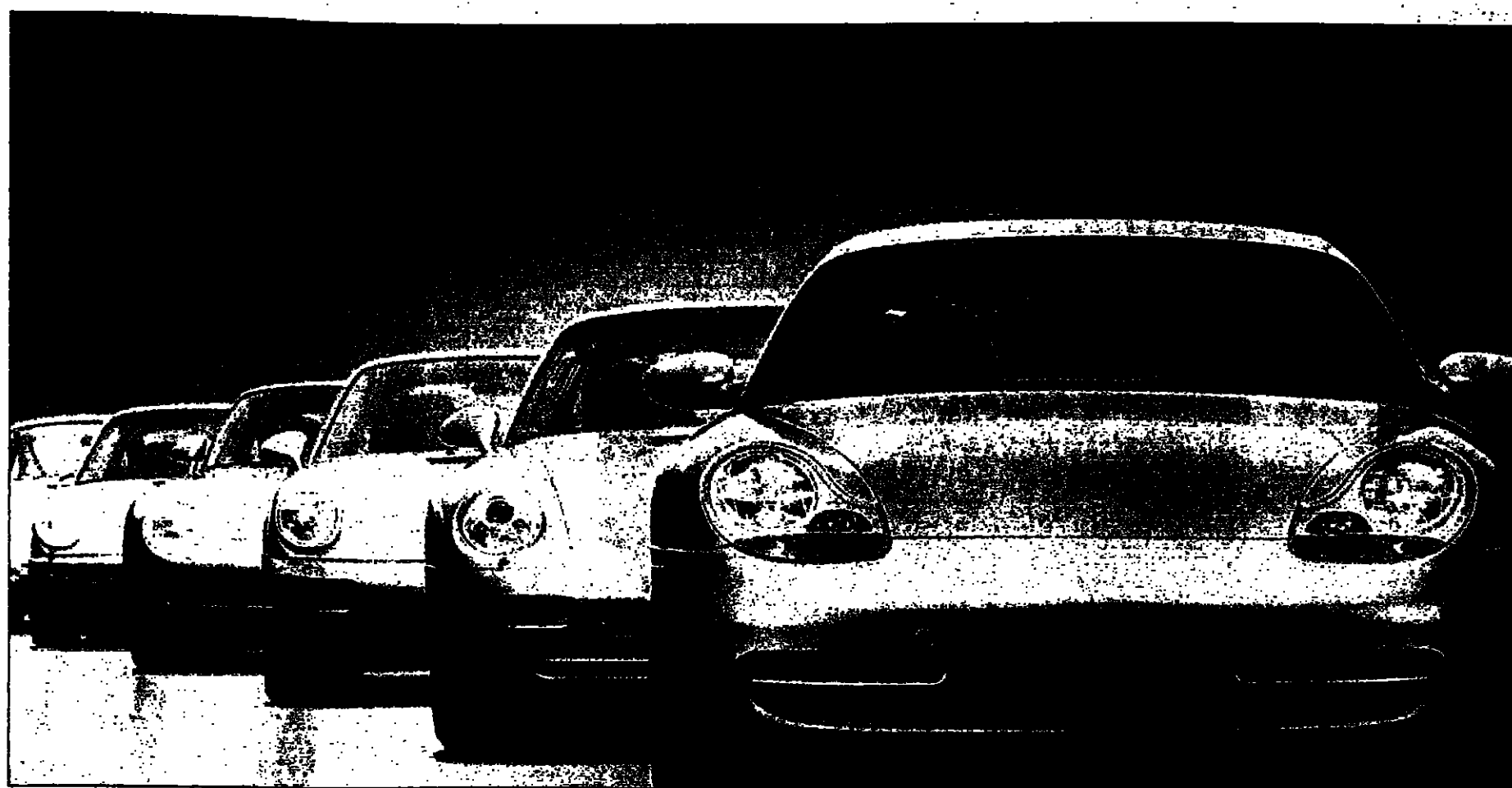
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Growth of a legend: stages in the evolution of the Porsche. The latest is the best – and you can even hear the stereo

## A beast, more beautiful than ever

There are better, faster, more beautiful cars than the Porsche 911. But there is none that serves up such a magical mix of sports car interaction, engine punch and live-wire behaviour. Gavin Green is smitten.

This is my favourite car. You don't so much drive a Porsche 911, as ride it. It is a barely tamed stallion, always on the verge of unruliness. Yet if you concentrate, drive forcefully and drive well, there is no car that rewards its master so richly.

The 911 is terrifically tactile. Drive one, and nothing else is quite the same. It is also marvellously practical. No car is better made or more reliable. It is probably the world's only sports car that can be used every day, and do its job as uncompromisingly as an Escort.

And now, 34 years after its invention, there is a new one. There have been updates over the past three decades or so, revisions that have partly tamed the beast and made it more usable and comfortable. The last iteration, unveiled in 1994 and codenamed the 993, was undoubtedly the best. Until this one, the brand new 911 – the best Porsche of the lot, and possibly the most desirable sports car in the world.

Although brand new – every panel is different, every mechanical component altered – the new 911 has been carefully designed to carry on the tradition. Its engine is nestled neatly in the tail, behind the rear axle line, which helps give the car such compact dimensions and such slingshot acceleration out of corners.

The downside is obvious: having all that weight out the back does not help handling balance. Most rival sports cars, as well as many cheaper ones (such as the MGF and Toyota MR2) have their engines in the middle, between cabin and

rear wheels, in Formula One racing car-style. Others, typically, have front engines and rear drive, which – as with a bar-bell, heavy at both ends – at least gives some equilibrium to the whole.

The new 911 has a flat-six engine, an unusual layout, as did its forebear. Again, it makes for compactness, and the most marvellous mechanical music at high revs – a bull-elephant below only a few feet behind you.

The noise has always been part of the 911 mystique. The new flat-six engine, though, is water-cooled, and those water jackets do partly dampen the orchestra. The old motor was air-cooled, like the old VW Beetle's motor, and thus there was little to muffle the tuneful cacophony of those six cylinders reciprocating at crazy speeds. The new motor doesn't sound quite as distinctive, at

least not until you've passed 6,000rpm on the big central tachometer. When you're cranking on, the engine is finally restored to full voice; there is just no finer automotive ensemble. And the new motor is more powerful and economical than the old model's. Porsche 911s have always been tolerably economical, helped by their light weight, relatively small engines (in sports car parlance) and small size.

Their smallness has another attraction. Most supercars are too big, the upshots of needlessly vast engines trying to propel wastefully vast – but eye-catchingly extravagant – bodies to absurdly high and largely academic maximum speeds.

Most current supercars are, in real conditions, slower than small hatchbacks, an upshot of their bulk and their awkward driving positions. The

911, however, is small, and feels small. That is one reason why rear-engined Porsches are raced successfully and, on public roads, are probably the fastest point-to-point cars in the world.

The new 911 is marginally bigger – 18.5cm longer, 3cm wider – but 50kg lighter than its predecessor. The greater size helps to make for greater cabin space. The 911 has more front seat room than many much bigger GTs, including the vast Jaguar XK8. The old 911 was cramped; the new one feels positively spacious. The rear seat room is still exiguous; useful only for small children and chattels. The boot is usefully bigger.

The biggest change, though, is in the way the new car drives. It is still a real 911. Its agility and explosive acceleration are still uncannily like that of its predecessor. But the hyperactivity has been leavened with a degree of restfulness. If you wish to cruise down a motorway – conditions in which the old 911 always demanded maximum attention, and provided minimal creature comforts – the new one is quiet, stable, and relaxing.

The old 911 wanted to play all the time. The new one gives you a break when you simply wish to cruise, or enjoy the music. And, yes, you can hear the stereo on a long run, rather than be continually serenaded by that chain-saw buzz. But when you want to play, the new one can party hard. The steering is deliciously sharp and doesn't buck and kick back on tight, bumpy roads, as the old model's did. Instead, it rides the bumps and irregularities, and gives good clean feedback no matter what the speed or the road surface.

As before, you can balance the car on bends, using both the throttle – in charge of so much power, so instantly accessible – and the steering. And the car proves just so obedient and controllable and small, helped by brilliant brakes. There is just no other car that can leave its driver so utterly intoxicated by its charms.

### SPECIFICATIONS

Porsche 911 Carrera. About £65,000 when UK sales start in October. Flat-six engine, 3387cc, 300bhp at 6800rpm. Top speed 175mph. 0-60mph acceleration in 5.0 seconds, average fuel economy 28mpg.

### RIVALS

Honda NSX £72,980. Brilliant sports car hamstrung by an ordinary badge. Beautifully wrought aluminium body, marvellous engine, terrific to drive. Best alternative to a Porsche.

Jaguar XK8 £47,950. Bigger, slower, more cumbersome, but probably more beautiful, in an understated British way. Surprisingly, it's no roomier than the much smaller (on the outside) 911.



Lotus Esprit V8 £59,995. Flashier, faster, but no other advantages over the Porsche. Now that the 911 has been replaced by a new model, the Esprit is the world's longest-lived supercar. And it needs replacing far more urgently than the Porsche ever did.

## Relax. In future we can all slump and drive

According to *Which?*, 80 per cent of us will suffer from back trouble at some time in our lives. Driving is widely blamed.

Spend more than half your working day at the wheel and you are six times more likely than non-drivers to be off work, according to a survey by Loughborough University. In another study, lorry drivers were found to be 25 times more prone to a slipped disc.

So what's wrong with our cars? Have the manufacturers got them wrong? John Gorman, of Iliac Design, believes they

have. "All cars seats are designed on completely the wrong principles," he says.

Gorman – a chartered engineer before he became a qualified chiropractor and seat maker – argues that modern car seats with fashionably prominent lumbar support, widely regarded as good for the spine, exacerbate back trouble. Gorman, who self-healed his own sports-aggravated back problems, asserts that lumbar padding causes the backbone to bend more, not less, just above where it connects with the

pelvis. It is here that most serious back trouble occurs.

It was obvious to Gorman, as a mechanical engineer, that lumbar padding was not the answer. In countering the pelvis's natural tendency to tilt backwards under body weight when sitting upright – as in a car or at your desk – the backbone lever itself into a double bend, opening up the base joints. The greater the angle between each vertebra, the greater the strain – and the higher the likelihood of back trouble.

Using computer graphics,

this harmful effect is clearly illustrated in an Iliac video. It also shows that those postures regarded as correct – sitting up straight and not slumping – defy nature. Relaxing with an evenly curved spine, as in squatting on your heels or slouching in a chair, is good for your back. It's no coincidence that lower back trouble is rare in third-world countries where there are few drivers or office workers.

Gorman's solution to the problem is simple. Do away with the spine-distorting lumbar padding and provide instead firm support for the tail sides of the pelvis.

Iliac Design's 'pelvic posture' seats (those for office use are already in production) are quite distinctive. The pelvic support bulges low down in a sort of vee formation at the base of the backrest. Little or no pressure is applied to the lumbar region just above.

I tried two of Gorman's experimental pelvic seats. That in a Citroën Xantia had particularly prominent V-shaped pelvic padding. The benefits were soon apparent. The pelvic

support in a Nissan Serena (Gorman's family wheels) was not so prominent but no less effective. Both seats felt anatomically right.

Iliac reports favourable reactions from most drivers who have tried its seats. Pending the availability of car seats built to his pelvic posture principle, Gorman recommends portable padding – and plenty of slouching and crouching, just as nature intended. If your car has adjustable lumbar support, set it to the minimum.

— Roger Bell



GAVIN GREEN

## How MPVs took us all for a ride

Sales of MPV vehicles are booming, largely because they're regarded as more versatile than normal saloons or estates. But in one major area – probably the major area – they're a con.

MPVs, such as Espaces and Galaxys and Sharans, offer seven seats, most of which can fold and swivel and tilt and slide, and change from lounge chair to picnic table at the merest pull of a lever. But key to their claim to versatility is that the seats can be removed completely – by that measure, they're about as practical as a backpack made of lead.

Sure, if you've got strong enough hands, had enough finger nails, and tough enough skin, you can just about perform the exertions and finger gymnastics required to remove the chairs. But to us mere mortals, it's far too much effort. Most MPV owners I know stick to the seven- or five-seat format, and rarely change. In practice, the seating format is as rigid as a nun's vow.

Not only are the chairs of all MPVs – from the baby Mercedes A-class to the class-topping new Renault Espace – awkward to remove and replace, but what on earth do you do with them when they're out? Even if you own a garage, do you really want to put your posh velour-covered chairs in the corner, to gather dust?

And for us urban dwellers, who find it hard to liberate enough house space for our books let alone leftover car seats, the problem is even more acute. I suggested putting the rear-most chairs of a recent test Espace in our lounge, but Her Indoors insisted that the purple velour clashed with the cream Heal's three-piece suite. And she found the metal "legs" of the Espace seats unsightly.

Even if you manage to extract all the back seats from an Espace in order to carry that chest of drawers to grandpa's, what happens if grandpa and grandma want to come home with you? The answer – sorry but I left the seats at home – seems rather pathetic.

It's partly for the above reasons, and partly because my wife still can't come to terms with driving a glorified van, that we recently decided to buy a

three-year-old Mercedes estate, to cart around our three young boys and the odds and ends (travel cot, pushchair, footballs, Power Rangers, Street Sharks, sweets, Lego, toy cars, books, comics, rucksacks etc) that invariably accompany them.

What particularly attracted us was the optional rear-facing bench, which boosts the people-carrying capacity to seven. The two rear-most chairs fold up or down with great ease. If you wish to turn your estate from a cupboard carrier into a people carrier, it's a simple matter of folding rather than removing/replacing – assuming, of course, that the MPV seats are nearby.

Fortunately, there's a new people carrier that doesn't require its owners to skin their knuckles every time they want to alter the seating arrangement, and doesn't require unfortunate grandparents to lie low in the rear. It's the new Vauxhall Zafira, and it's still a year away from the showroom. Vauxhall reckoned, quite sensibly, that it's far preferable to leave seats in than to take them away, so the back five seats of the new Zafira all fold.

The rear two seats fold flat into the floor, allowing the middle bench (which can seat three) to slide over them, if necessary. And the middle bench folds forward, out of the way, in the good of estate style. "It's just so much easier than the normal MPV arrangement," Vauxhall/Opel's head of engineering, Peter Hanenberger, told me at the recent Frankfurt Show, where the Zafira was unveiled. (Quite where this puts the recently launched, and orthodox-cabined, Vauxhall Sintra MPV, I didn't dare enquire.)

The Zafira is a small MPV – it's of Renault Scenic rather than Renault Espace exterior size – and it strikes me as being potentially the biggest leap forward in MPVs since the original Espace, 13 years ago. Why buy a similarly sized Astra or Golf, when the same sort of money will buy you a car with seven seats and genuine versatility? Or, for that matter (and this is a little harder for me to come to terms with), why buy a Mercedes estate?

### MY WORST CAR/PHILIP MADOC

## The vanishing Stag cost me dear

It was called the Triumph Stag but was nicknamed the Snag. Mine had more than its fair share.

To be honest I knew nothing about these cars. The only reason I chose it was because it was a convertible. I am a passionate motorcyclist – I love to see the sky and feel the wind and an open-topped car is the best compromise.

The Stag could only have been about three years old when I bought it but it quickly became apparent that the engine had serious problems. Now I'm not a mechanic, so I took it to a specialist and they recommended that the sick V8 should be swapped for a Rover engine. I arranged to drop it off at a garage in Hertfordshire and trusted them to get on with the job.

I was busy working all over the country at the time, but still



managed to keep in touch with the garage by telephoning them at least every other weekend. They kept telling me what I wanted to hear so the progress sounded promising.

Unfortunately I was in no position to check the situation personally, which was my biggest mistake. After six

months though I became very suspicious and visited the premises one Saturday morning.

They had hardly started work on the car and worse than that, it had gone missing. There was no trace of it, so I had to call in the police. Eventually it was found in a garage in south

London. No one knew how long it had been there. I strongly suspect it had been there most of the time. It all got a bit messy because the proprietor was eventually taken to court and fined.

There was no happy ending for me though as I never got any money back and worst of all never even drove the Stag. I had to sell a half-finished car. It was a very unpleasant experience and one I will never forget.

The Stag did not put me off convertibles – I have had a succession of open-topped cars ever since. My first love is still motorcycles. None of them have ever given me as much grief as that awful Snag.

Philip Madoc is appearing in 'A Mind to Kill', on Channel 5 on Saturdays at 9pm. He was talking to James Ruppert.

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